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Dozens Hurt In Firebomb Blast in N.Y. Subway Car

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
NEW YORK — A firebomb exploded on a crowded subway train Wednesday near Manhattan's financial district, injuring at least 37 people, four of them critically.
 Hundreds of passengers rushed out of the Brooklyn-bound train as the device went off in a fireball, leaving briefcases and purses behind as they staggered to the street. Others were carried out by rescuers. Some swatted flames off the clothes of fellow passengers.
 One passenger, Denfield Otto, an off-duty transit police officer, said there was a small series of popping noises before a larger explosion rocked the train as it sat in the Fulton Street station, near the World Trade Center, about 1:30 P.M.
 "There were people on the ground, burning and rolling around," said Bennett Fischel, a passenger. "It looked like a couple of people were unconscious."
 "I was in the car directly next to the explosion," he said. "Once the explosion happened there were people running and trampling, it was mayhem, it was chaos."
 The incendiary device apparently went off in the lap of a passenger in the sixth car, Police Commissioner William J. Bratton said. The device appeared to be a glass jar, filled with flammable liquid and with an external igniter, he said.
 A police spokesman, John Miller, said the device was "not the kind of bomb that blows out windows."
 Mr. Bratton said police want to speak with one victim found "with particularly severe burns." The man, whose injuries were too serious for investigators to interview him immediately, was found two stations away in Brooklyn, police said.
 CBS News reported that the victim was in custody at the Cornell University Burn Center in Manhattan.
 Subway service to Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn was halted, suspending service to half a million passengers, and all trains were being
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Prime Minister Berlusconi girding himself on Wednesday for a parliamentary debate on the future of his government.

Berlusconi Set to Quit As Coalition Collapses

Italy's Attempt to Break With Past Is Torpedoed by Political Rivalries

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service
ROME — After only seven months in office, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was described Wednesday night as being on the brink of resignation in the face of a revolt within his coalition by the insurgent Northern League.
 His spokesman, Jas Gawronski, said it was "99 percent certain" that Mr. Berlusconi would tender his resignation to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro on Thursday.
 "The one percent uncertainty is that he might ask for a confidence vote, but he's very likely to resign," Mr. Gawronski said. Mr. Gawronski said Mr. Berlusconi had authorized him to make the statement.
 The development came after Mr. Berlusconi delivered an aggressive speech to Parliament, where he faces three no-confidence votes sponsored by the rebellious Northern League.
 The move means Mr. Scalfaro must decide whether to permit political negotiations between Mr. Berlusconi's opponents on forming a new government or to authorize new elections.
 But it also means that Italy's first attempt to break with its corruption-stained past through the elections last March that brought Mr. Berlusconi to power has foundered, torpedoed by political rivalry over who should lead the land to its vaunted "Second Republic."
 Mr. Berlusconi's speech to Parliament was a final effort to thwart the no-confidence moves, but he evidently calculated he could not win.
 As he has done on several occasions, he told Italians who have seceded through months of crisis that the only way out of the country's woes was an early election. But even as he spoke, his closest allies seemed to be saying that the battle to save his wounded government had already been lost.
 "The bottom line doesn't change," said Gianfranco Fini, the leader of the neofascist National Alliance who also favors early elections. "Everyone knows that this will end with a government that doesn't exist anymore. How we get there is a Byzantine issue. Let's go to the ballot box."
 Mr. Berlusconi told a packed Parliament: "If this government majority dissolves, we must return to the voters — decisively and calmly — to seek their opinion."
 While only Mr. Scalfaro may, by law, call new elections, Mr. Berlusconi went on to say: "I am convinced that this is a mandatory step that we have no alternative but to take."
 The no-confidence motions were lodged by the former Communists, the Popular Party — successors to the old Christian Democrats — and the Northern League, a nominal ally within Mr. Berlusconi's coalition.
 But it was for the Northern League leader, Umberto Bossi, that Mr. Berlusconi reserved most of his invective, accusing him of fraud and bad faith for breaking with the rightist alliance that brought his party into the government for the first time.
 In the March elections, Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia party struck an electoral pact with Mr. Bossi in the north of the country and with the National Alliance in the south to secure a parliamentary majority in the lower house and thus form a coalition with two other small, centrist parties.
 By rebelling against the coalition, Mr. Berlusconi argues, Mr. Bossi has forfeited his political legitimacy because it was that same alliance that enabled his party to take power.
 "Sovereignty belongs to the people and no one has the right to carry it off," Mr. Berlusconi said. "Whoever works against the will of the voters, for whatever reason and at whatever time, offends the spirit and soul of the democratic constitution."
 The tone and content of Mr. Berlusconi's speech suggested that he was setting the stage for a re-election campaign, projecting himself as the victim of treachery.
 Mr. Bossi and his allies in the parliamentary opposition reckon to command about 325 of the 630 lower-house seats — enough to topple the government despite the opposition of dissidents in the League.
 Almost since the government took office, Mr. Bossi has railed against Mr. Berlusconi, criticizing him on a broad range of issues.
 He has depicted Mr. Berlusconi as unfit for office because of a conflict of interest between his political position and his huge business holdings. He has accused him of seeking to monopolize Italian broadcasting by controlling state television in addition to his own three commercial networks. And he has frequently criticized the Fascist roots of the National Alliance coalition partner, as he did again in Parliament on Wednesday night.
 In doing so, Mr. Bossi is primarily pursuing his own political agenda, seeking to stake out an independent position from Mr. Berlusconi and Mr. Fini so as to avoid an erosion of support for him in his northern heartland. Most Italian analysts say that, in new elections, the Northern League would lose support in a straight fight with the Berlusconi camp.
 Mr. Bossi has thus sought to energize the crusading, rebellious image with which he built support as he tilted against Italy's discredited political old guard before this year's elections. On Wednesday night, he again cast Mr. Berlusconi as a direct descendant of Italy's corruption-stained past.
 "It is my responsibility today to bring to an end the First Republic," he said, using the political shorthand for Italy's postwar era, and accusing Mr. Berlusconi himself of breaking the agreements on which their electoral and coalition alliance was founded.
 See RUSSIA, Page 6

Yeltsin Vows to 'Spare No Effort' in Chechnya

By Margaret Shapiro
Washington Post Service
MOSCOW — President Boris N. Yeltsin pledged Wednesday to continue his military assault against the breakaway republic of Chechnya, but he also told the Chechen people that they were not the targets and would not be penalized when the hostilities were over.
 Mr. Yeltsin instructed his ministers of defense and interior to "spare no effort to restore the rule of the Russian constitution on the whole territory of the Chechen republic," Itar-Tass press agency reported.
 [Russian warplanes bombed the Chechen capital, Grozny, for an hour around midnight Wednesday in the heaviest air raids since troops intervened Dec. 11, an AFP correspondent said. The planes made 11 bombing runs over the city and about 30 explosions were heard. Two of the blasts were not far from the city center, and three were on the outskirts.]
 Mr. Yeltsin's statement Wednesday to the Chechen people, after thousands had formed a human chain on snowy roads to protest Russia's invasion, was an attempt to lower the resistance of the population to the idea of eventual reintegration into Russia.
 The republic declared its independence in 1991, and Russian now says it has become a base for arms dealers and gangsters.
 In several communiqués about the military situation Wednesday, Russian officials reported growing resistance by Chechen fighters that was slowing what they had hoped would be a fairly steady advance of troops on Grozny.
 The Russian Security Council noted a "drastic increase in the activities of unlawful armed formations" and said that "commando groups and snipers were operating everywhere, as a result of which casualties among servicemen have increased."
 The council also said that mercenaries from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Ukraine had joined the Chechen forces.
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Fruits of Carter's Down-Home Diplomacy

Ingenuous Approach Apparently Wins Serbian Commitment

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service
SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — He couldn't pronounce anybody's name. He confused one faction with another. He looked more like a golfer with a Southern patrician air than a high-flying international Mr. Fix-It. He was stern but brief with the victims, and long-winded and understanding with the aggressors.
 But turning even gaffes into gains, former President Jimmy Carter waded into the Balkans morass this week and left, seemingly without getting any mud on his spanking white turtleneck or his growing reputation as the Houdini of American foreign policy.
 And what he obtained was significant — a commitment to silence Bosnia's guns by Friday and the first negotiations between Serbs and Muslims since a breakdown last summer led to a nasty autumn of more war.
 In a final show of his good fortune, the 70-year-old former president made it out of town a day before a blizzard blanketed this crumbling capital, shutting the airport that Mr. Carter's kind words to the Serbs had helped reopen. The tempest was perhaps a sign that even nature was on Mr. Carter's side. Nothing quells the gnus of Bosnia better than a good snowstorm.
 Mr. Carter's down-home routine has worked before, particularly in Haiti, where during negotiations to remove General Raoul Cedras from power he invited the strongman to speak at the Sunday school in Plains, Georgia, and complimented his wife and children. While a U.S. invasion force roared toward the Caribbean Sea, Mr. Carter concluded a deal with General Cedras and the attack was called off.
 In North Korea, Mr. Carter defied the Clinton administration and walked off with an agreement with Kim Il Sung to halt his country's nuclear program, averting the imposition of U.S. economic sanctions, which North Korea had said would be an act of war.
 But it was here in Bosnia that Mr. Carter's "aw shucks" style merged with his obvious ignorance of this messy conflict into one of the strangest, but most potent, one-two punches so far in the Balkans.
 While it is still unclear whether Mr. Carter's mission will do much more than provide a short hiatus for Bosnia's blood-
 See BOSNIA, Page 6

North Koreans to Return Body of U.S. Army Pilot

By Paul Blustein
Washington Post Service
SEOUL — North Korea has agreed to return the body of a U.S. Army pilot who was killed when his helicopter went down in North Korean territory, U.S. officials said Wednesday, but a second pilot who survived will be held until Pyongyang completes its investigation of the incident.
 Representative William B. Richardson, Democrat of New Mexico, was scheduled to bring the pilot's body across the border into South Korea on Thursday morning, a U.S. Embassy official said.
 The Clinton administration said it welcomed the agreement to repatriate the body of Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon. The administration had cautioned Pyongyang that further delay in returning the crewmen, whose helicopter went down Saturday, could affect relations between the two countries.
 The White House press secretary, Dee Dee Myers, said that the United States hoped the surviving pilot would be released by Sunday, Christmas Day. But U.S. officials said they had no concrete assurances he would be released.
 Mr. Hilemon and Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall were flying along the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea when their OH-58C helicopter strayed into North Korean territory and went down. Mr. Hilemon died and Mr. Hall was taken captive.
 The official North Korean press agency, KCNA, said Wednesday that
 See KOREA, Page 6

Republicans Plan a Tough Bottom-Line Approach to Foreign Aid

By Steven Greenhouse
New York Times Service
WASHINGTON — Republican leaders in Congress are planning a tough new approach that treats foreign aid much like welfare: as a multibillion-dollar handout that needs to be overhauled and cut.
 In mapping strategy for the foreign aid budget, which is \$13.7 billion this year, the congressional Republicans want to focus on advancing U.S. national security and economic interests rather than what they say is an entitlement program for poor nations. Many of them talk about using their new majority to cut foreign aid by 15 to 20 percent.
 Indeed, aid to Africa is even more vulnerable because the Congressional Black Caucus, which had a large say in shaping aid when the Democrats controlled Congress, will exert little influence on Republicans, who have voted to eliminate financing for that group.
 The Republican lawmakers with the greatest influence on foreign aid suggest that assistance to Africa will be cut sharply, while aid to the Middle East and former Soviet bloc nations — two areas viewed as vital to national security — will be maintained at or near current levels.
 These lawmakers say they intend to slash the \$1 billion in annual aid to Africa because in their view African countries have little strategic importance and have grown too dependent on aid.
 "The only way to break the devastating cycle of dependency is to end foreign aid entitlement programs," said Senator Mitch McConnell, the Kentucky Republican who will be chairman of the appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations. "If we're going to change welfare here at home, we certainly ought not to be using American tax dollars to foster that kind of dependency abroad."
 Representative Sonny Callahan, the Alabama Republican who will head the House subcommittee on foreign operations, shares that view.
 To that end, Republican lawmakers have proposed tighter strings on assistance and barring aid to countries unless their policies promote free markets, free trade, and private property.
 But Clinton administration officials, in an effort to prevent such cuts, gave several speeches last week asserting that Republican aid strategy takes a myopic view of the security interests of the United States and undercuts its leadership role and moral authority overseas.
 "We cannot exercise influence over the international community in some rosier future if we abdicate responsibility now," said J. Brian Atwood, administrator of the Agency for International Development, the government's chief aid arm. Senator McConnell and other Republicans have proposed eliminating the agency and having the State Department administer aid directly.
 In part, the clash reflects a difference in philosophy.
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Dow Jones		Trib Index	
Up	34.65	Down	0.29%
	3801.80		111.79
The Dollar		Previous Close	
West. close	1.5806	1.5702	
Mid	1.542	1.5605	
Sum	100.475	100.17	
in	5.451	5.414	

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on.....1 JD	U.A.E.....8.50 Dirh
mon.....US\$ 1.50	U.S. Mil. (Eur.) \$1.10

Lotto Affair Has French Asking, Who's Helping Whom?

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — By buying lottery tickets, French people knew that they were helping the government budget and getting a 1-in-3-million shot at rocketing to riches.

What they were also buying, without knowing it, was a lavish lifestyle for some top people, starting with the state-owned lottery's chief executive officer. His idea of business included the construction of a swimming pool in his company-owned residence.

Not that he was keeping it all to himself: The lottery also picked up bills for air and sea cruises for hundreds of the boss's closest friends and contacts. He also allegedly funneled funds through dummy companies for his own profit.

These charges of abuse or taxpayers' money emerged Wednesday in reports of fraud charges against Gérard Colé, who headed the national lottery monopoly from 1989 to 1993.

Mr. Colé, whose sister was also charged, was named to the lucrative post after helping François Mitterrand, a Socialist and critic of easy money, recraft his image in ways that won

the presidency in 1981 and re-election in 1988. Mr. Colé's alleged extravagance provides the most vivid picture yet of ostentatious corruption at the top amid a series of French scandals implicating government and business.

When challenged in the past about his spending, Mr. Colé cited in his defense his successful management of state-run gambling games in France and abroad. Modernizing the business, Mr. Colé introduced instant-gratification lotteries involving dollar-a-shot games, some with prize money revealed by scratching the cards.

With one French person in five buying these tickets in state-licensed neighborhood cafes, annual lottery revenue trebled during his tenure to more than \$6 billion, with profits reaching nearly \$200 million last year.

French prosecutors reportedly found that Mr. Colé had misused company funds by taking friends — "in the hundreds" — to exotic destinations for vacations disguised as seminars.

The case will fuel recent revelations about how parts of the French elite have abused public funds with a nonchalance verging on notions of divine right.

Ignoring the drumbeat of court revelations, which have exposed wrongdoing among all the mainstream parties, the conservative politicians have chosen instead to escalate their rhetoric about the deprived classes. This week, it's the homeless.

Unlike the violent radicals of revolutionary eras, the homeless have been politically docile, and therefore convenient material for political rhetoric.

The French appear to be shifting in their views to see a widening gap between rich and poor as the worst threat to national unity, an attitude that candidates have started to meet with concern about social cohesion and solidarity.

To some extent, this concern, articulated in a major opinion poll published Wednesday, amounts simply to a new version of the classic French worries about unemployment and tensions with immigrants.

The homeless, covering all these categories, offer convenient symbolism. When a group of demonstrators occupied an apartment building in the chic St. Germain-des-Près neighborhood of Paris this week, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur condoned it and had his own car drive

home the squatters' leader, an 80-year-old cleric named Abbé Pierre.

The next day Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, called for the government to requisition empty housing owned by financial interests.

Mr. Chirac was quickly denounced by the French establishment — and even publicly impugned by the Abbé Pierre — for a move widely seen as a bid to grab himself in Gaullist populism.

This conservative contest over the compassion factor partly reflects a bid to poach leftist votes amid the disarray of the Socialists, who have been shattered not just by Jacques Delors's refusal to run on their ticket but also by the way he declined. He said, in effect, that the Socialist Party had lost any political credibility. Former Prime Minister Michel Rocard called the party "a ruined field."

Neither left or right has an answer to the corruption issue, which touches the entire political class. The French Parliament has passed a law requiring elected officials and some top civil servants to declare their net worth, but the new law — which was strongly contested before passing — will keep the statements secret.

WORLD BRIEFS

Brother of Hezbollah Militant Is Killed by Beirut Car Bomb

BEIRUT (Reuters) — A brother of Lebanon's most wanted civil war hostage-taker was killed by a car bomb in Beirut on Wednesday, Hezbollah sources said.

They said Foad Moughniyeh, a security official of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah Party, was one of three people killed in the explosion in a Hezbollah-controlled suburb of Beirut.

Mr. Moughniyeh's brother, Imad, a high-ranking security official in the militant movement, left Lebanon several years ago and is living in Iran.

He is suspected of involvement in the kidnapping of several Western hostages in Beirut, including the Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, the British Anglican envoy Terry Waite and the dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, Professor Thomas Sutherland.

Mitterrand Stopped Chemotherapy

PARIS (Reuters) — President François Mitterrand had to drop chemotherapy for his prostate cancer after experiencing severe side effects but is recovering from the ill effects and is now undergoing radiation therapy, his doctor said Wednesday.

Dr. Claude Guibler said in Mr. Mitterrand's regular six-month health bulletin that the 78-year-old president's overall health could not be definitively evaluated until several weeks after the radiation treatments at the end of this month.

Mr. Mitterrand, who underwent a second prostate cancer operation in July, has pledged to stay in power until May, when his second seven-year term ends. Dr. Guibler said the chemotherapy caused severe inflammation and did not help reduce the cancer. But the subsequent radiation therapy, combined with hormone treatment, was having "significant results."

Jordan Sentences 11 Militants to Die

AMMAN, Jordan (Reuters) — Jordan's state security court on Wednesday sentenced to death 11 Muslim militants accused of a plot to destabilize the kingdom, including a series of bombings and plans to assassinate leading officials.

Three of those sentenced to hang were tried in absentia and remain at large. They include Mohammed Khalifa, a son-in-law of a Saudi Arabian businessman, Usama Laden, who is an alleged financier of Muslim hard-line groups across the region.

Of the 25 men on trial, three had death sentences commuted to life terms and one death sentence was reduced to 20 years. Three others received sentences from 7½ to 20 years, while seven men were acquitted. The sentences will automatically be appealed to a higher court. King Hussein has commuted all previous death sentences for political crimes.

U.S. Lends Support to Liberia Talks

ACCRA, Ghana (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, W. Anthony Lake, made a surprise visit to Ghana on Wednesday to lend support to efforts to broker peace among Liberia's warring factions and politicians.

Ghanaian officials said Accra peace talks, which entered a second day on Wednesday, appeared to be making headway on a draft agreement to end the five-year-old civil war, which has killed an estimated 150,000 people.

In Liberia, the authorities began an investigation into last week's massacre of civilians in the capital, Monrovia, and said workers said further bodies had been discovered that could push the toll to as high as 68.

Japanese Politician Fined for Bribes

TOKYO (Reuters) — A former member of Parliament received a fine and a suspended prison term on Wednesday after being convicted of taking bribes in a shares-for-favors scandal that implicated many top politicians, Japanese media reports said.

Katsuya Ikeda, 57, a former lower house member for the now-disbanded Clean Government Party, got a three-year prison term suspended for four years and a fine of 18.35 million yen (\$183,500).

Mr. Ikeda was found guilty of receiving, between August 1984 and September 1986, about 7 million yen in checks and cash, and 5,000 unlisted shares in Recruit Cosmos Co., a real estate subsidiary of major Tokyo-based job information firm, Recruit Co.

Hundreds Mark Stalin's Birthday

GORI, Georgia (AP) — Hundreds of people nostalgic for a lost empire shivered in snow, rain and sleet Wednesday to mark the 115th anniversary of Josef Stalin's birth.

Nearly 1,000 people marched to the huge statue of Stalin in Gori, birthplace of the man historians say is responsible for the deaths of at least 20 million people, most of them his countrymen.

In another Georgian town, Gurjani, several hundred people gathered for the unveiling of a bust of Stalin that had been hidden for more than 30 years. The bust was removed from a local kindergarten in 1961 when Stalin's successors began to quietly play down the late Communist leader's near-deity status.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Airport Bomb Scanner Due for Tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration said it hopes to begin testing next year a computerized airport explosives-detection system that works much like CAT scans in hospitals.

Prompted by the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, the U.S. Congress ordered the aviation agency in 1990 to develop new devices to protect airports and planes from bombs. Field tests of the new scanner may take up to two years.

The system, developed by InVision Technologies of Foster City, California, and Imatron Federal Systems of Burke, Virginia, takes multiple views of the contents of luggage to create cross-sectional images or slices. A computer then reconstructs the slices to determine the density of objects.

The United States has issued a travel advisory for flights over Afghanistan, noting a warning by the International Civil Aviation Organization that there is no reliable communication with Kabul air traffic control. (APF)

A typhoon slammed into the central Philippines on Wednesday with winds of 125 kilometers per hour, threatening Cebu City and forcing the cancellation or diversion of domestic and international flights filled with holiday travelers. (AP)

The Canadian government has denied Air Canada a route to Hong Kong for the foreseeable future, a Transport Department official in Ottawa said. Air Canada had sought to compete with Canadian Airlines International, which has been authorized to serve Hong Kong. (Reuters)



AIR CRASH IN ENGLAND KILLS 5 — Rescuers examining wreckage of a cargo plane that crashed Wednesday on approach to Coventry, England. Three Algerians and two Britons were killed. The Boeing 737-200, owned by Air Algérie and leased to Phoenix Aviation, clipped roofs and an electricity pylon, cutting power, the police said.

EUROPEAN TOPICS

French Government Tunes In To Surge of Dish Antennas

Are the thousands of parabolic antennas popping up on roofs in French cities — most conspicuously in some of the poorer neighborhoods — really bringing a flood of Islamic fundamentalist propaganda?

The number of dish antennas in France has soared in the past year, and some 150,000 of them are now pointed toward the Eutelsat IIF3 satellite, which carries about 15 Turkish and Arab stations, according to the French weekly Le Point.

The French government is sufficiently concerned to have commissioned a consultant, Fouad Benhalla, to explore the possibility of starting an "alternative" Arab-language channel under government control.

Eutelsat IIF3 does carry something called Muslim TV, which is Pakistani-funded. But is the satellite a vector for Islamic propaganda? Farhad Khosrokhavar of the School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences thinks not.

"You can't really attribute the spread

of Islamism in the suburbs to television," he says. The prime target of Islamic proselytizers, according to Mr. Khosrokhavar, are the young, and in France young people of Arab ancestry watch little television and often speak no Arabic. The programs — some half of which come from India or Anglo-Saxon countries — are most often nonreligious in content, and are watched by older immigrants as a way to maintain ties to the old country.

The French government channel could go on the air next year, if funding is approved. About 3 million Muslims live in France.

Around Europe

The church that graces the Prague skyline belongs to the church, a court has ruled. A government claim to the soaring St. Vitus Cathedral, the heart of Prague Castle, was rejected by a Prague court.

President Vaclav Havel had asserted state ownership — the castle is also the traditional home of the president. Mr. Havel's office insists that the cathedral's "psychological owner is undoubtedly the Czech nation." It says Parliament still could address the issue.

Business executives faced with last-minute Christmas shopping for colleagues or clients should think twice before pulling out their credit cards, says Manfred Bruhn, a marketing professor at the European Business School.

Thoughtless presents — the 10th fountain pen for a laptop computer enthusiast, another bottle of aftershave for a bearded business contact — can do more harm than good. "Nowhere else is so much money wasted so thoughtlessly," Mr. Bruhn told the German weekly Focus.

He said 91 percent of all presents given by business executives are passed on to friends or relatives. His tips: Analyze your relationship to the person you're buying for. Think about what the gift is intended to convey. Above all, study the person's reaction — and figure out how to do better next year.

Christmas was nearly stolen from the 11 residents of Norway's Bear Island, far north of the Arctic Circle. The island's only Christmas tree had been brought by coast guard cutter, and the residents, who work at a weather and radio base, carefully packed snow around it to keep it green. But when they went to dig the tree out, only pine needles remained. The rest apparently had become a snack for a polar bear.

It looked like the crew would have to hang their Christmas decorations on a potted rubber tree. But colleagues in the Svalbard islands, 400 kilometers farther north, saved the day. They found a new tree and sent it on by transport plane.

Brian Knowlton

After Years of Yawning, House of Commons Acts

The Associated Press

LONDON — The House of Commons has decided to change its working hours for an experimental period, curbing the number of late-night sittings and introducing more daytime sessions.

At present, business in the 651-seat Commons starts at 2:30 P.M. and often continues into the early hours of the morning.

Nighttime sittings, a hangover from the past when the House was all-male and members dined at their London clubs before returning late in the evening to vote, are blamed by some legislators for a high rate of marriage breakdowns among members.

Arafat and Peres Move to Speed Talks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GAZA CITY — Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel said Wednesday they were determined to break the impasse over West Bank troop withdrawal and would move to secret, top-level talks to get results.

"We feel the best way to arrive at an agreement is doing it discreetly" and on a "very high level," Mr. Peres said after talks at Mr. Arafat's office.

Mr. Arafat said he would communicate with Mr. Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "through the telephone, faxes and meetings." He said he and Mr. Peres made progress in their talks Wednesday, but neither divulged details.

The Palestinians told the Israeli delegation it was imperative to reach agreement soon because of eroding support in the West Bank and Gaza for the peace process.

"I think the foreign minister is aware of the urgency," said an Arafat spokesman, Marwan Kanafani.

Under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization accord, Israeli soldiers were to pull out of Palestinian towns in the West Bank on the eve of Palestinian general elections, initially scheduled for no later than last July.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres decided in their talks that procedures for elections would be discussed by second-level negotiators in continuing talks in Cairo.

In a related development, the Israeli president, Ezer Weizman, ended his first visit to Egypt as head of state on Wednesday without securing a guarantee that President Hosni Mubarak would make a long-promised return visit.

Mr. Weizman, who was defense minister when his country and Egypt signed their historic peace treaty in 1979, held three rounds of talks with Mr. Mubarak on the Middle East peace process and also met Egyptian ministers during his three-day visit.

Israel Television said last week that Mr. Mubarak would visit Israel for the first time within the next three months, but the Egyptian foreign minister, Amr Moussa, was noncommittal.

"It's always a possibility and that's better than it not being possible," he said.

(AP, Reuters)

Les Roses de Noël

Motifs d'oreilles, or, corail et brillants.

Broche or, corail, et brillants.

Van Cleef & Arpels

"Il est des signatures auxquelles on tient"

Van Cleef & Arpels PARIS 22, place Vendôme Tél: 42 61 58 58 GENEVE 31, Rue du Rhône. Tél: 311 60 70

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THE AMERICAS /

Armed Guards Watch Gingrich After Death Threats Rise

NEW YORK — A number of death threats has prompted increased security for the incoming House speaker, Newt Gingrich, including round-the-clock bodyguards and an armored limousine, according to a published report.

Both Washington police and the FBI are investigating the New York Daily News reported. In a memo to Mr. Gingrich, the Capitol Hill police chief, Gary Abrecht, outlined the stepped-up security, which will include around-the-clock armed plainclothes bodyguards, uniformed officers outside his new offices and an armored limousine equipped with police radios and an armed police driver, the paper reported.

Mr. Gingrich's predecessor, Thomas S. Foley, also had an armed driver but not the other security measures.

Mr. Abrecht also said that Mr. Gingrich would have to abandon his frequent walks from his Capitol Hill apartment to his offices.

"My primary concern is for your safety, and the simple fact is that we live in a world where security must play a major role in the life of a person in your position," Mr. Abrecht said.

The reports of threats to Mr. Gingrich came as federal officials defended the shooting of a knife-wielding homeless man outside the White House. The officials said the shooting Tuesday was justified because the man did not follow orders to give up his weapon.

White House security precautions have been increased in light of a string of recent security threats, but the police rejected any suggestion that they were more prone to shoot.

Marcelino Corniel, 33, was in very critical condition at a hospital after being shot twice by a Park Police officer during the sidewalk standoff

on Pennsylvania Avenue, just outside the White House grounds.

"I feel this was just a normal police reaction to a man with a knife," Major Robert Hines, the Park Police spokesman, said Wednesday in a broadcast interview. "We have had numerous people call questioning what we did. If the officer had not fired when he did, the man could have turned and run."

Major Hines said the officer who fired the shots was an experienced employee who would be assigned to administrative duty in keeping with routine procedure. The officer was not identified by name.

On Saturday, four shots were fired at the rear of the White House in what investigators said might have been a drive-by shooting.

On Oct. 29, a gunman sprayed the front of the White House with a semiautomatic weapon. In September, a small plane crash-landed on the

rear lawn of the White House and its pilot was killed.

Prosecutors planned to charge Mr. Corniel with assaulting a federal officer, said Monty Wilkinson, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office. Additional charges could be added later, investigators said. The assault charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

Witnesses said Mr. Corniel charged across Pennsylvania Avenue from Lafayette Park armed with a knife and threatened Park Police and Secret Service officers before the shooting.

Video footage from the Conus television service shows that in the final moments of the confrontation, Mr. Corniel stood practically motionless facing four officers, one of whom then advanced and fired.

Witnesses said officers had repeatedly ordered Mr. Corniel to drop the knife, which it turned out was taped to his hand.

POLITICAL NOTES

Did Dole Maneuver to Undercut Gramm?

WASHINGTON — In a quest for the Republican presidential nomination in 1996, there would be no better perch for Senator Phil Gramm of Texas than the Senate Finance Committee, which will be at the center of efforts to cut taxes and change the welfare system.

That may be why Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, who has also set his sights on the Republican nomination for the White House, saw to it that Mr. Gramm was not likely to get the seat, an assignment he had expected and talked about for months.

Although both senators deny it publicly, several Republican lawmakers and their aides said privately that Mr. Dole, who will be majority leader when the new Senate convenes next year, maneuvered to make sure that Mr. Gramm would be denied a seat.

"Any effort to keep me off the committee would be petty and mean-spirited and I don't choose to believe it," Mr. Gramm said.

Richard L. Berke, NYT

Some Republican Advice for Clinton

WASHINGTON — David Gergen, the departing presidential adviser who has filled the awkward role of house Republican in the Clinton administration, urged President Bill Clinton to focus more, speak less and hire some experienced aides.

Mr. Gergen, who leaves at the end of the month to become a visiting professor at Duke University, finished his 18-month adventure in the Clinton inner circle with this counsel for the president:

- Mr. Clinton should resist the notion that "more communication is better communication" and limit his public appearances to those in which he has something meaningful to say.
- He should concentrate on two or three domestic policy initiatives and two or three foreign policy problems and not get distracted by the daily static of public life.
- And he should widen his circle of advisers to include more White House veterans, more Democratic graybeards, and more moderate Republicans like Mr. Gergen. (LAT)

Conservative Democrats Stay in Party

WASHINGTON — Representative W.J. Tauzin, who had threatened to join the new Republican majority in the House, said he will stay with the Democrats for at least a year. But the Louisiana lawmaker said he planned to form a coalition to put pressure on his party to be responsive to conservative issues.

Representative Mike Parker of Mississippi, another conservative Democrat who had been talking about signing up with the Republicans, also said he would stick with his party and work with Mr. Tauzin to create an active conservative caucus.

Mr. Tauzin said at the outset the group would "aggressively support" the House Republicans' "Contract With America," including a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. He predicted about 18 Southern Democrats would join. Mr. Parker said the membership could go up to 25. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Alice M. Rivlin, director of the Office of Management and Budget, on the role of the midterm election results in the administration's decision to pursue new budget cuts: "The election dramatized what we thought we knew — that the American public wants a smaller and less-intrusive government — and makes possible some things that might not have been possible — holder options, more radical thinking." (WP)

Away From Politics

● The former diplomat Felix Bloch, who was investigated by the FBI in 1969 on suspicion of espionage but never charged, has been accused of shoplifting from a grocery store in Carboro, North Carolina. A security officer said he saw Mr. Bloch, who now works as a bus driver, stuff two bottles of headache tablets, pepperoni, pita bread, and lemonade mix into his jacket and pants. (AP)

● Death threats against abortion doctors rose in 1994, with one in four abortion clinics reporting threats to doctors and staff, even as other forms of violence and harassment aimed at the clinics declined, according to a survey by the Fund for the Feminist Majority. (LAT)

● An indictment in a case involving smuggling of Chinese into the United States, unsealed in New York, alleges that eight people took part in a plot to kidnap about 100 of the illegal immigrants and subject them to extortion. (Reuters)

● Bias-related killings of homosexuals are often gratuitously violent and many go unsolved, according to a report by 23 anti-violence groups. The report listed 151 murders in 29 states and the District of Columbia from January 1992 until early this month. Almost 60 percent involved four or more gunshots or stab wounds, the repeated use of blunt objects or more than one killing method. (NYT)

Mexican Rebels Flee As Troops Take Town

Uprising Ends Without Shots

By Tod Robberson

WASHINGTON — SIMOJOVEL, Mexico — Most government counterinsurgency forces withdrew Wednesday from positions in the southern state of Chiapas after clearing road blocks and chasing away peasant rebels who had seized dozens of towns and villages.

No gunfire or bloodshed was reported during the two-day occupation by the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army. Except for trenches dug into paved roads, a few looted stores and a ransacked municipal building in Simojovel, virtually all remains of the guerrilla presence had been erased by sunrise Wednesday.

The quick and nonviolent dispersal of the Zapatistas by more than 300 Mexican soldiers and counterinsurgency police handed a modest political victory to President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, who took office Dec. 1 promising to resolve the rebel conflict without a return to the combat that left 150 dead when the rebel uprising began in January.

Business and political leaders were trying to determine why the Zapatistas selected their region for an occupation that, until this week, had been limited mainly to areas around the Lacandon rain forest in southeastern Chiapas.

"They seemed very young and very short in stature," the Reverend Joel Padrón said of the occupiers. "It is clear they were indigenous people."

"Here, there is a general rejection of the indigenous," the priest said, adding that "one can easily see how marginalized their community is becoming."

Father Padrón said a dwindling share of arable land, unequal distribution of public resources and a general feeling that Indians lacked government representation may have contributed to the uprising.

"Some of them had their chil-

dren with them. Instead of guns, some had slingshots," said Luis Anzures, a local business and community leader who sought to minimize the importance of the occupation. "One man was standing in the plaza with his mask and rifle, and a little boy tugged on his band and said, 'Papa?'"

Like other influential townspeople, Mr. Anzures described the rebels as "thooligans" and "delinquents" who were more bent on stirring up trouble than furthering the goals of land redistribution and political reform espoused by the Zapatistas.

He noted that the rebels had looted pharmacy and at least two general stores before withdrawing. "It's getting to the point that all you have to do is put on a ski mask and green pants, and all of a sudden, you're a Zapatista, too."



Mexican policemen pulling down a flag erected by rebels of the Zapatista National Liberation Army in Chiapas state.

Tabloid's Simpson Articles Fluster Mainline Press

By Howard Kurtz

WASHINGTON — The National Enquirer is getting some journalistic respect from an unexpected quarter: The New York Times. But the Enquirer still has a credibility gap with The Associated Press, where a reporter this week threatened to pull her byline rather than mention the supermarket tabloid.

The Enquirer cited an unnamed "insider" last week as saying that O.J. Simpson, meeting in jail with his minister, the former football star Roosevelt Grier, shouted, "I did it!" while clutching a Bible. The paper said his tearful outburst was overheard by a jail guard. Mr. Simpson is on trial for murder in the June 12 killings of Nicole Brown Simpson, his former wife, and Ronald L. Goldman.

The Times's legal correspondent, David Margolick, who is covering the trial in Los Angeles, reported the alleged incident and credited the Enquirer.

"I didn't do it lightly, and I thought

I'd be criticized for it. It was from a source that had proven itself reliable in the Simpson case," he said of the Enquirer. "And I'd be doing my readers a disservice if I didn't mention it."

Asked why, if he believed the "I did it!" account, he relegated it to the seventh paragraph rather than lead his story with it, Mr. Margolick said: "It's a tough one. Given what the Enquirer conjures up to people, I thought this was a judicious compromise, to put it into the dialogue."

The Chicago Tribune picked up the same report, crediting the Enquirer, days later. But the Enquirer piece sparked a heated debate Monday at The Associated Press when top editors at the wire service asked that it be included in a trial story.

Linda Deutsch, the lead trial reporter for The Associated Press, told her editors Monday that she would remove her byline if the Enquirer account were added to her story. After lengthy discussion, they agreed to leave it out.

"It was an unattributed story from an unreliable tabloid. All it did was sensationalize it, which it certainly doesn't need at this point," Ms. Deutsch said. "To me it was astounding that The New York Times did that."

Michael Silverman, an Associated Press deputy managing editor, said: "Our general policy has been to try not to pick up unsubstantiated source reports of this kind. It just came down to you either believed the Enquirer or you didn't."

Glenn Frankel, the editor overseeing trial coverage for The Washington Post, offered a similar reason: "Our basic standard is we don't like uncorroborated stories, especially when we don't know if it's from prosecution or defense sources. When the National Enquirer uses an uncorroborated story, my reaction is I've got to know more."

Mr. Margolick mentioned the Enquirer again Tuesday in reporting that Judge Lance A. Ito had refused to admit

the purported comments as evidence. A deputy sheriff testified that he had overheard Mr. Simpson talking to Mr. Grier, but Gerald Uelman, a Simpson lawyer, said the unspecified remark could have been heard out of context.

"We can all pretend this publication doesn't exist and isn't beating us," Mr. Margolick said. "But that's not doing anybody any favors."

"It's extremely nice to be recognized," David Perel, the Enquirer's articles editor, said. "It's a mainstream verification of what our readers already knew, that we're first and we're accurate." He said the paper, which sometimes pays for information, had multiple sources for the report but declined to say whether any had been paid.

Footnote: Neither The Times nor the Tribune used the lead of the Enquirer story, headlined "O.J. Finally Cracks." The article said Mr. Simpson had told his lawyers he would agree to plead guilty if he could avoid a long prison sentence.

Dean Rusk, Symbol of U.S. Vietnam War Policy, Is Dead at 85

By Eric Pace

NEW YORK — Dean Rusk, who as secretary of state in the 1960s was a vociferous, combative and much-criticized defender of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, died Tuesday at his home in Athens, Georgia. He was 85 and suffered from heart disease.

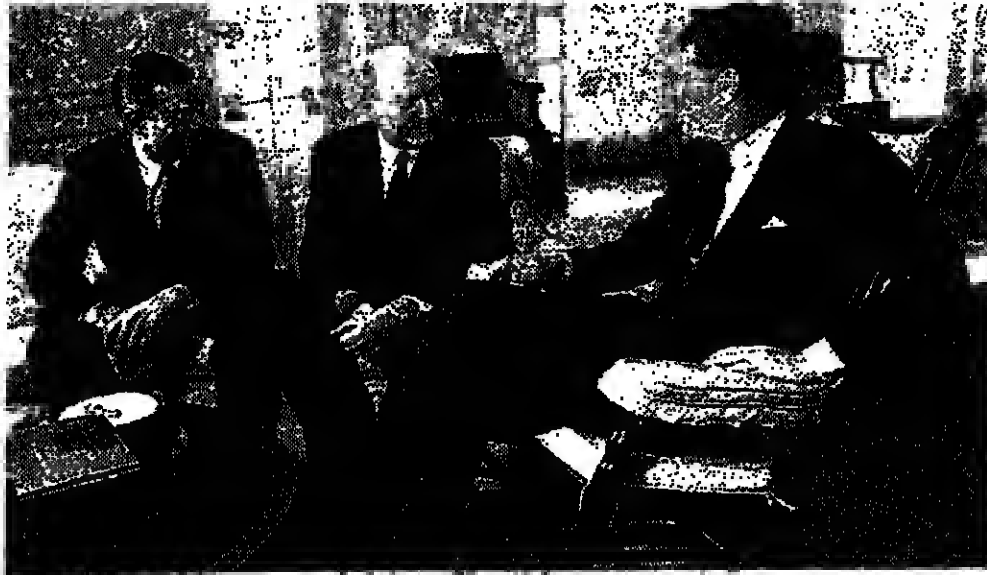
Mr. Rusk, a former president of the Rockefeller Foundation, was secretary of state through the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, from 1961 to 1969. He returned to his native Georgia and taught international law at the University of Georgia until he retired in 1984.

He became such a tireless champion of the mushrooming American role in the war that by early 1968 he was a living symbol of that fiercely disputed policy.

In those years he was praised by a grateful President Lyndon B. Johnson, who said: "He's got courage. A Georgia cracker. When you're going in with the Marines, he's the kind you want at your side."

But Mr. Rusk came to be reviled by anti-war protesters, who mobbed his speaking appearances and shouted insults and slogans.

Then and in later decades, his



Dean Rusk, then the secretary of state, between Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and President John F. Kennedy at a December 1962 meeting at the White House.

work as secretary of state drew mixed reviews from historians, biographers and foreign-policy experts: James Chace of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace wrote in 1988, in The New York Times Book Review, that he was "a good man — loyal, intelligent and self-

sacrificing — who was marked by a fatal lack of imagination and who came to bear the onus for perhaps the most tragic failure of American foreign policy in this century, the waging of the Vietnam War."

Mr. Rusk's views on Vietnam evolved somewhat, but in the

mid 1960s he believed firmly that the United States must be extremely forceful in confronting North Vietnamese aggression in South Vietnam.

While Mr. Rusk was secretary, the American role in the war grew until almost 550,000 U.S. troops were in South Viet-

nam in 1969, allied with the shaky South Vietnamese Army against the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong.

But he failed to foresee that the Vietnamese Communist forces would keep on fighting despite the massive United States intervention.

Yet when Mr. Rusk was asked "What went wrong in Vietnam?" at a press conference shortly before he left office in 1969, he quickly responded, "What went wrong was a persistent and determined attempt by the authorities in Hanoi to take over South Vietnam by force."

In interviews in later years and in his memoirs, however, he said that he had underestimated the tenacity of the North Vietnamese and overestimated the patience of the American people.

Mr. Rusk came to spend most of his time as secretary dealing with Vietnam, and his role in some other notable foreign-policy spheres was less publicized and less crucial.

In the Kennedy administration, which he joined when he was 51, Mr. Rusk was an important figure, but not a member of John F. Kennedy's inner circle, as he was under Mr. Johnson.

Despite the criticism he encountered, Mr. Rusk became the second-longest-serving secretary of state in U.S. history after Cordell Hull, who served from 1933 to 1944 under Franklin D. Roosevelt. The length of Mr. Rusk's tenure was due to the esteem in which he was held by President Johnson, who took office in 1963 and was, like him, a self-made Southerner.

In good times and bad, Mr. Rusk generally radiated self-confidence and solidity. Even near the end of his time in office he remained "dogged, durable, unfailingly courteous and considerate," as he was described then by Max Frankel of The New York Times.

Before he became secretary, Mr. Rusk gained wide knowledge and experience in Asian matters and foreign affairs in general. He was a student at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar while in his early 20s and also did some studying in Germany.

He was an army staff officer in the China-Burma-India theater during World War II and a high State Department official during part of the Korean War. Asia was an area in which he took particular interest as head of the Ford Foundation from 1952 to 1960.

SUBWAY: Firebomb Explodes

Continued from Page 1

checked, a transit spokesman said. Most service was restored about two hours after the incident.

Mr. Otto, who grabbed a fire extinguisher and helped put out the flames, described a scene of chaos.

"I got two people in flames, lying on the floor of the train," Mr. Otto said. "Some brave passengers took off their coats and tried to beat back the flames."

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani arrived at the site about an hour after the blast. Victims wearing oxygen masks were on stretchers along Broadway several blocks south of city hall and one block east of the World Trade Center, site of a 1993 terrorist blast that killed six and injured about 1,000.

The FBI joined the subway investigation when it became clear some sort of bomb was involved.

Investigators initially reported that a second device was found, but Mr. Miller said that proved to be untrue.

Thirty-seven people were injured, four critically, said an Emergency Medical Service spokesman, David Bookstaver. All suffered burns or smoke inhalation.

The streets around the station were crowded with fire trucks and rescue vehicles on a once-quiet afternoon just four days before Christmas.

The blast occurred on the Lexington Avenue line, which snakes from Brooklyn, up the East Side of Manhattan, and then into the Bronx.

Six days ago, a teenager was burned aboard a train when an incendiary device caused his coat to catch fire. Transit police were still investigating the cause and said there did not appear to be any connection with Wednesday's incident. (AP, Reuters)

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Jimmy Carter Again

Helpful if It Works

If Jimmy Carter's controversial mediation effort brings Bosnia closer to peace, more power to him. But the odds on an early end to the two-and-a-half-year war remain long, despite Tuesday's agreement on a cease-fire that could start as soon as Friday. The Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, began interpreting his agreement with Mr. Carter almost from the moment he signed it Monday night. It remains unclear what he has committed his side to beyond a very temporary truce and a willingness to talk about revising the latest international peace plan.

Under that plan, Britain, France, Germany, the United States and Russia offered the Serbs title to 49 percent of Bosnia's original territory. But Mr. Karadzic's forces currently hold 70 percent of that territory. Given the unwillingness of the five powers to use force, no one has figured out how to get the Serbs to pare down their holdings.

Mr. Carter coaxed Mr. Karadzic back toward the peace table with soothing words and a promise that territorial details could be renegotiated between the parties. That promise represents a retreat from the take-it-or-leave-it position that the plan's sponsors presented last summer. Mr. Carter is not responsible for the retreat; it was publicly announced before he arrived on the scene.

What the Serbs really seem to want is a permanent cease-fire in place, with the rival armies separated by United Nations peacekeepers. That would let them hold on indefinitely to the 70 percent of Bosnia they now possess while negotiating for territorial exchanges that would give them an economically viable indepen-

dent state. Such exchanges would mean evicting hundreds of thousands more Muslims from their homes.

For its part, the Bosnian government recognizes that it has lost the war, can expect no outside help and must swallow a compromise. It wants that compromise to come as close as possible to the original five-power peace map, which would minimize further evictions.

The Clinton administration did a good job of briefing Mr. Carter for his mission and persuading him to work within the framework of the existing peace plan. For a change, Washington and Europe maintained a united position against abandoning the basic outlines of that plan. If they can maintain that unity from now on, it would greatly improve the chances of an acceptable agreement.

The history of this war is full of one-sided international concessions to the Serbs that brought nothing in return. None of the governments involved in that sterile diplomacy have grounds for complaint if Mr. Carter has now managed to trade one of their past concessions for renewed peace talks.

For reasons best understood by himself, Jimmy Carter, known during his presidency for outspokenness on human rights, seemed to minimize the ethnic cleansing, mass rapes and other atrocities committed by Mr. Karadzic's followers — the most widespread violation of human rights in Europe since the time of Hitler. Americans, Mr. Carter contended, had heard only one side of the story.

Nevertheless, if he succeeds in reopening peace talks on the basis of the five-power formula, he will have made a valuable contribution.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Playing President

Jimmy Carter seems to be coaxing Bosnia's warring Serbs and Muslims into a cease-fire. It sounds promising enough. Who can oppose a half in the carnage? But what is really going on? How does an ostensible private person suddenly appear to acquire U.S. and "contact group" authority to make proposals, to pass around signed papers, to assign roles to those not at his portable little table — in effect, to play a president? Is this the same man who insisted that he represented only the "Carter Center"? Can his words be repudiated if a need arises? Is he actually operating in the penumbra of the Clinton administration's self-doubt and uncertainty and creating political facts whose consequences others will have to sort out?

A cease-fire: The Muslim-led Bosnian government wants a breather, the better to get through the winter, rearm and fight on. The Bosnian Serbs want a permanent halt, the better to nail down their gains. Unless the Muslims agree to this in two weeks, the Serbs say, the four-month cease-fire supposedly accepted under Mr. Carter's mediation is off. So what has been agreed to beyond a Christmas respite?

The peace plan: The Muslim-led Bosnian government has favored the compromise plan written up on a take-it-or-leave-it basis by the "contact group"

consisting of the United States, Russia, France, Britain and Germany. Bosnian Serbs had rejected it. They now accept the plan except for its territorial and political provisions — except, that is, for its essentials. So, again, what has been agreed to beyond an assertion of the familiar divide?

Jimmy Carter has used his own personal standing and negotiating skills and others' pessimism and fatigue to insert himself into a deadly stalemate in a manner defying order and accountability. He has only his reputation to lose. Others have much more. It is incredible that he should have gone so far.

And unless there is an entire dimension to both these proceedings and the trumpeted agreement that has not been disclosed, it is more incredible that the Clinton administration should have let him. Mr. Carter is a man of peace. He has also all too often been a loose cannon. This was the moment when Bill Clinton was supposed to be restoring his claim to be "presidential." He has done the opposite by appearing to fall into a Carter-fronted undercurrent of the Muslim position. Warren Christopher — you remember Warren Christopher, our secretary of state? — has condoned an intervention that diminishes both his office and the foreign policy interests of the United States.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Getting Back to Work

Almost every new report issued on the problems facing welfare recipients in America tells a story that few want to hear right now: that moving long-term welfare recipients into jobs is hard, complicated and costly. Welfare recipients who fall onto the rolls because of temporary setbacks usually get back to work quickly, and almost always within a couple of years. But people who are on welfare a long time usually face large problems in their personal lives. If it were easy for them to take jobs, they wouldn't be on welfare.

That is the real import of a new General Accounting Office study of the JOBS program — that stands for Job Opportunities and Basic Skills — passed in 1988 and designed to do what welfare reformers say they want now: to give welfare recipients the skills they need to move off the rolls. The GAO report is critical of JOBS, arguing that it failed to establish adequate links with employers to help welfare recipients get and keep jobs, and that the most "at-risk" welfare recipients tend not to be served by the program.

"Various sources indicate that problems such as substance abuse, learning disabilities, emotional problems and domestic violence are not uncommon among adult welfare recipients. If left unaddressed, these problems can interfere with a recipient's ability to get or keep a job and may result in long-term welfare dependence."

No kidding. The question is: How much can any program, especially one financed at just \$1.1 billion a year, deal with what amounts to the full range of

problems confronting so many of a country's poorest people? It ought not be a shock that scarce JOBS funds are more likely to be spent on recipients without this huge load of difficulties, since they probably stand the best chance of getting and keeping jobs. The GAO report covered 16 states containing most of the nation's teenage mothers on the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. It found that "only" 24 percent were enrolled in JOBS. But again, how many people can one program funded at this level be expected to help?

It is entirely true, as the report says, that programs designed to move long-term welfare recipients into jobs for real do need closer relationships with employers. This task involves a real commitment on the part of government, employer and welfare recipient alike. Other studies of welfare-to-work programs such as JOBS have found that when the commitment is there, intensive efforts to help welfare recipients can have a real payoff. But there is no magical solution, no perfect program, for the agonizing problems facing so many recipients of public assistance.

Whether welfare reform is ultimately carried out primarily by Washington or by the states, the basic reality of reform will be the same: confronted. Helping people who have been on public assistance for a long time to become self-sufficient is a task well worth undertaking, but it will require patience, experimentation and some money. Is the current political mood up to that?

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Nuclear Builddown: America Dallies as Japan Fumes

By Selig S. Harrison

WASHINGTON — The recent controversy over the postage stamp with the mushroom cloud provided a grimly appropriate backdrop for a little-noticed but profoundly significant clash over nuclear policy between Japan and the United States that was taking place simultaneously at the United Nations.

As the only victim of nuclear war, Japan is increasingly disturbed by the failure of the United States and the other four nuclear powers to honor Article 6 of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which requires them to "negotiate in good faith" on phasing out their nuclear weapons in return for the commitment of the non-nuclear states to remain non-nuclear.

A long-festering conflict over this issue burst into the open on Nov. 2 when Japan introduced a resolution in the UN First Committee urging the nuclear weapon states "to further pursue negotiations on progressive and balanced reductions of nuclear weapons in the light of Article 6 of the nonproliferation treaty, with a view to the ultimate objectives of the cessation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons, the liquidation of their existing stockpiles and the elimination from national arsenals of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery."

Coming from a military ally, the resolution was a bombshell to the United States, which promptly launched a high-pressure campaign behind the scenes to dilute it. U.S. diplomats argued that its

passage would complicate U.S. efforts to marshal a majority in favor of indefinite extension of the nonproliferation treaty at a critical conference next April that will consider the future of the accord. But Japan insisted that prospects for a resounding majority, now uncertain, would be enhanced if the nuclear powers showed that they were serious about steadily reducing their nuclear arsenals.

After two weeks of intense diplomatic maneuvering, Japan backed down. A bland revised draft made no mention of Article 6 or of negotiations, requesting the nuclear powers "to pursue their efforts for nuclear disarmament with the ultimate objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons." The United States, Russia, Britain, France and Israel were among those abstaining. China supported it.

Anything to do with nuclear weapons arouses deep emotions in Japan. Memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki underlie both the passionate anti-nuclear sentiment of the majority and the nationalistic hawkishness of an influential minority. The majority view is that Japan has a special responsibility to promote nuclear disarmament. But for the minority, Hiroshima was a humiliation that must be erased from the national psyche by achieving sufficient strength to stand up to the United States as an equal in every respect.

— militarily as well as economically. In the hawkish view, if America seeks to preserve superpower status by maintaining nuclear weapons, Japan cannot rule out the nuclear option for itself, especially in the face of potential nuclear threats from Russia, China and North Korea.

At the Group of Seven economic summit in June 1993, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, bowing to hawkish sentiment, refused to support a U.S.-sponsored resolution calling for the indefinite and unconditional extension of the nonproliferation treaty. More recently, the Japanese government has backed indefinite extension, provoking criticism from hawks and doves alike; both sides are suggesting short-term extension periods ranging from two to 25 years unless the nuclear powers begin to implement Article 6.

The nuclear controversy in Japan exemplifies in acute form similar debates gaining momentum in other countries as the April conference approaches. In the eyes of the non-nuclear countries, the nonproliferation treaty envisaged a nuclear-free world, not a permanent division of the global power structure in which five favored countries enjoy a dominant position. Thus there was widespread dismay when the United States unveiled its long-awaited Nuclear Posture Review in late September.

The review carefully avoided a commitment to further reductions in nuclear weapons below the 3,500 level envisaged

in the 1991 START-2 agreement. It failed to make even a rhetorical bow to the goal of eventually eliminating nuclear stockpiles. Instead it emphasized the continuing role of nuclear weapons in U.S. strategy, pointing to the potential threat from Russia.

Any reductions below the START-2 level, said the review, would depend on progress toward "a more democratic and more peaceful Russia." Yet in the same week Boris Yeltsin offered to negotiate a START-3 agreement, accompanied by a "treaty on nuclear security" in which all five nuclear powers would agree to set targets for continuing cutbacks.

Defending the review, a Pentagon official, Ashton Carter, told a Washington seminar that "we're watching and waiting to see where the world's going." As the Japanese case shows, however, the world is watching and waiting with growing restlessness to see where the United States is going.

The U.S. review points to the Russian menace, but uncertainty about American strategic goals feeds nuclear nationalism in Moscow, jeopardizing ratification of START-2 by the Duma and the entire future of nuclear arms control.

The writer is director of a Carnegie Endowment program on Japan's role in international security affairs. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

With Its Western Alliance at Stake, Germany Becomes Responsible

By Josef Joffe

MUNICH — During the Gulf War, some Germans hung white sheets from their windows to show off the proper pacifist spirit. Other Germans paid for that display in cold cash: \$6.5 billion into the coalition's kitty, Bonn's shamefaced contribution to the war effort.

Today, three years into the Bosnian war, two-thirds of Germans oppose the dispatch of Luftwaffe Tornados to Bosnia. But this time Bonn won't resort to Deutsche marks. Late on Tuesday the government opted for a profound break with 40 years of abstentionism.

If the withdrawal of United Nations troops in Bosnia has to be secured, those Tornados will fly and, if need be, hurl their anti-radar missiles against the "eyes" of Serbian anti-aircraft batteries which have recently sprouted all over Bosnia. Before any NATO rescue operation, those missile batteries will have to be suppressed if NATO is to achieve air supremacy. Bonn would also supply medics, logistic support and naval forces. This is the beginning of the end of the Kohl Doctrine — and of an era.

With a view to the former Yugoslavia, Chancellor Helmut Kohl had produced a tidy little principle: The new German army could not tread where the Wehrmacht had struck. Of course, that did not leave many places in Europe where the Bundeswehr could venture — Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal and Ireland. There is scarcely a country where Nazi Germany was not involved in World War II.

The recourse to history has been prudent, but it has also been profitable. For the heirs of Hitler, discretion in matters military was wise. After two world wars, after unspeakable crimes committed by Nazi Germany, it was right to trade the jackboot for the felt slipper.

There was also a genuine revulsion against the militarism of Wilhelm's and Hitler's Germany. That revulsion contributed mightily to the flowering of the liberal democracy now so durably implanted in German soil.

But the new pacifism was also profitable. Look at the United States and France. While they squandered blood and treasure around the globe — from Indochina to Algeria, from Korea to Vietnam — the West Germans could tend their garden and add to their gross national product.

The war in Algeria destroyed the Third Republic, and the Vietnam War almost rent asunder the United States. West Germany, by contrast, lived happily ever after in deep domestic peace.

This twin lesson — the disaster of militarism and the sweet wages of pacifism — is not easily unlearned. Indeed, during the Gulf War a majority of West

Germans confessed to pollsters that they would prefer to live like Switzerland and Sweden.

But today the Kohl Doctrine rings a bit hollow. The point is not lebensraum, hegemony and Germany über alles. The issue is the responsibility that goes with power. Can a nation of 80 million act like Switzerland writ large? "No," says the Kohl government — and "oo," although much more grudgingly, says even the Social Democratic opposition, whose pacifist roots reach back into the 19th century.

It was just Bosnia, the nays would have prevailed even in 1994. But suddenly the issue was no longer a "war of conscience" but the core of German postwar policy by the name of NATO.

Once the alliance was drawing up contingency plans for the insertion of 45,000 men to protect the withdrawal of 23,000 United Nations troops, the issue came down to hard realpolitik. Would Bonn refuse to protect its allies

(together, Britain and France make up the largest UN contingent) as they fought their way out of Bosnia? That would have been the end of alliance with the West, the sturdiest home Germany has ever had.

For the time being, Tuesday's cabinet decision in favor of alliance solidarity does not come with a price tag attached. Nobody wants to withdraw the UN Protection Force, and neither France nor Britain is asking Bonn to send its Tornados into battle preemptively. So Germany has signed no more than a promissory note.

Still, five years ago it was straight cash in exchange for opting out of real commitment. Germany has now made half a commitment: to maturity and international responsibility.

The writer, foreign and editorial page editor of Süddeutsche Zeitung, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

The Toys Come From Asian Sweatshops, but Who Wants to Know?

By Bob Herbert

NEW YORK — On the afternoon of May 10, 1993, a fire broke out in a four-story factory complex in Nakhon Pathom Province in Thailand, near Bangkok. The complex belonged to Kader Industrial Toy Co., a giant operation that over the years has manufactured toys distributed and sold by some of the most prominent names in corporate America, including Toys "R" Us, J.C. Penney, Fisher-Price, Gund and Hasbro.

Described by witnesses as a "living hell," the fire killed 188 panicked and screaming workers, of whom 174 were women and teenage girls. It was the worst industrial fire in history, its death toll surpassing the 146 workers killed at the Triangle Shirtwaist Co. in New York in 1911.

In the United States, toy company executives are immersed in the sweet season of Christmas. It is jacket time and they do not want the holiday mood spoiled

by reminders of the Kader horror. These executives know that their profits come from the toil of the young and the wretched in the Far East; they can live with that — live well, in fact. But they do not want to talk about dead women and girls stacked in the factory yard like so much rubbish.

Listen to Lampam Taplin, who survived the fire:

"There was the sound of yelling about a fire. I tried to leave the section but the supervisor told me to get back to work. My sister who worked on the fourth floor with me pulled me away and insisted we try to get out. We tried to go down the stairs and got to the second floor. We found that the stairs had already caved in. There was a lot of yelling and confusion. I couldn't go down farther. In desperation I went back up to the windows and went back and forth looking down be-

low. The smoke was thick and I picked the best place to jump on a pile of boxes. My sister jumped, too. She died.

Nearly half of all the toys sold in the United States are produced for brand-name companies by contractors in China, Thailand and other countries in Asia. The toy companies have embraced the Far East sweatshops for the same reason as other industries have: There is an enormous supply of semi-slave laborers, including women and girls, who will work for grotesquely low wages in extremely dangerous conditions.

China is the champ in the low-wage sweatshops. With minimum wages that hover around 80 cents a day, China is forcing a further decline in the already hideous working conditions in neighboring countries.

Western executives are flocking to China to do business. Ac-

cording to the Toy Manufacturers of America, a trade group in New York, \$3.3 billion worth of toys made in China were sold in the United States in 1992 alone.

U.S. executives keep the misery at a distance through contracts and subcontracts. They act as if they bear no responsibility for the exploitation on which so much of their profits rest.

The atrocities remain well hidden. A comprehensive report on the Kader fire, compiled by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Brussels, also documents a series of fatal disasters that have befallen workers in China. In 1991 about 80 people died in a fire at a raincoat factory in Dongguan, and in 1993 84 workers, nearly all women, were killed in a handicrafts factory fire in Shenzhen.

Most corporations will follow the trail of profits no matter how gruesome the human costs. Consumers are another matter. I be-

lieve there are very few American parents who would not be troubled by the knowledge that a toy they were buying was produced by laborers, often children themselves, in a permanent state of degradation and danger.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Expensive Toys

THE lack of health and safety requirements reaps tremendous savings for foreign investors but has disastrous results in the producing countries.

Industrial accidents are frequent in Thailand. Industrial injuries increased at the rate of 20 to 30 percent during the 1980s, and by 1992 there were more than 150,000 industrial injuries a year.

In most of the countries which produce toys for the international market, trade union activity is severely restricted. In China, trying to organize an independent union is a crime. (Forty percent of all toys sold in the European Union come from China.) Trade union rights are denied and trade unionists are intimidated in Mexico's export processing zones.

Manufacturers must assume direct responsibility for accidents, but giant toy companies and large retailers in consuming countries are also involved since their contracting policies lead producers to ignore health and safety norms.

Where workers are able to form unions, and negotiate collectively for better conditions, safety improves. This is the rationale behind the argument for inserting a social clause in all international trading agreements under the future World Trade Organization.

—Bill Jordan, incoming general secretary of the ICFTU.

The Thai Prime Minister Survives a Murky Storm

By Philip Bowring

BANGKOK — It is easy to dismiss developments in Thailand's convoluted politics with the comment "The more things change the more they remain the same." One opportunistic move two weeks ago landed the country in its biggest political crisis since the return of democracy in 1992. But that was soon followed by another move that surprised even those hardened to the fickleness of party politics.

The net result is that Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai of the Democrat Party remains at the helm but with a restructured cabinet and coalition.

This outcome is good for political stability, but the episode has been a reminder of three enduring factors in Thai politics:

• The breathtaking opportunism of many elected politicians, and the ephemeral nature of most of the parties, which are based more on personality than policy.

• The continued desire of some in the military to influence the political system.

• The importance of the monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, as stabilizer of last resort.

Already, General Sunthorn Kongsompong, the 1991 coup leader and participant in the recent anti-government maneuvering, has quit the Senate in a huff.

The latest crisis was sparked by the opportunism of the retired general Chavalit Yongchaiyudh. He teamed up with senators originally appointed by the military National Peacekeeping Council regime to frustrate a promised extension of democracy to local government. By doing so he confronted Prime Minister Chuan with the prospect of struggling on

with a minority government or calling an election, which few wanted. Mr. Chavalit hoped, one way or another, to be able to come to power amid the confusion.

His action effectively ended the division into "devils" and "angels" — those parties that had been compromised by association with the National Peacekeeping Council and those that had not. This had been the main fault line between government and opposition.

The political confusion threatened by Mr. Chavalit's departure appeared to add strength to those who argued that Thai democracy was too immature to bring stable government. Whatever the outcome of an election now — 15 months before the end of this Parliament's four-year term — it almost certainly would not have solved the underlying problems and would instead have drawn attention to the politics of money.

In fact, there is no imminent danger of the military returning, at least overtly. The present military leadership has been cooperative with the government: memories of 1992 are still fresh. The Democrats, and particularly Mr. Chuan's Democrat Party, can use the military bogymen as a rallying point. But there is little doubt that remnants of the old military regime, and their supporters in the bureaucracy and business communities, will help any tendency of the democratic system to self-destruct.

For now, opportunism has proved a defense as well as a threat. It is not easy to figure out the motives of the former prime minister, Chatchai Choonavan, who came to Mr. Chuan's rescue

soon after joining with other opposition parties to try to bring him down. His subordinates' desire for office may be one reason. Another seems to have been the role of former Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, a privy councillor known to be close to the palace and immensely influential in military and civil circles.

The king, in a Dec. 5 birthday address, stressed the importance of unity in decision-making. Mr. Chavalit appears to have ignored the plea and could end up in political limbo as a result.

The entry of Mr. Chatchai's Chart Pattana Party is one way weakens the Chuan government by admitting a party with past associations with money politics. It has widened splits in other coalition members, such as Palang Dharma, the party of the saintly but erratic former Bangkok governor and democracy hero of 1992, Chamlong Srimuang.

The Democrats themselves have been weakened by a corruption scandal over land reform. Mr. Chuan has a reputation for being colorless and indecisive, compared with figures like Banham Silpa-archa, a likely candidate to unseat him. But it is generally agreed that the Chuan government, which includes several apolitical technocrats, has a higher standard of integrity than most.

Modernization of institutions and badly needed investment outside the metropolis are going on while economic growth rolls along at 8 percent. Mr. Chuan remains respected by the urban middle class, which is the backbone of the Democrats. He is

also a shrewd operator. Some see him as a civilian version of Mr. Prem, a quiet and courteous man who survived as prime minister for eight years despite numerous attempts by military men to unseat him. Having survived this latest and greatest threat, there is now a fair chance that he and his Parliament will see out four years.

That in itself would be a major advance for a Thailand still struggling to create political institutions that provide stability but reflect a society changing as fast as its economy grows.

International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1894: Rat Puts Lights Out

BALTIMORE — Parts of this city that depend on electricity for light were suddenly enveloped in darkness on Thanksgiving night until morning. The cause of all the trouble was a rat, which set fire to the switchboard in the electric light works by forming a circuit between two brass terminals. The remains of the little animal are preserved at the works.

1919: A Political 'Fool'

BRUSSELS — The Dutch government has officially informed the Allies that it will not hand over the former Kaiser for trial. [The Herald says in an editorial:] He is Holland prepared to enter into conflict with the Allies for the sake of the sinister refugee from justice, characterized as "one of the greatest political fools in the world's history?"

1944: The Trib Is Back

PARIS — The European edition of the New York Herald Tribune resumed publication in Paris today [Dec. 22] after a lapse of four and a half years. The New York Herald Tribune was the last free newspaper to be printed in the French capital before the entry of the Germans. Since September, its modern printing plant at 21 rue de Berri had been turned over to the American Army for the publication of its official troop newspaper, "The Stars and Stripes." From today on, the Herald Tribune will publish side by side in the same plant. The new executives inherit a newspaper with a past closely linked with the growing consciousness of Europe in American life. The old "Paris Herald" made its full share of contributions to the progress of the press in Europe.

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OPINION

Friend to the Foe's Friend But Blindly Cold at Home

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Officially the United States seeks to punish Libya for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 just before Christmas six years ago. But in practice U.S. officials have turned their responsibilities inside out. While diplomats reassure Moammar Gadhafi's friends that Washington bears them no hard feelings for supporting Libya, other bureaucrats harry families who lost relatives in the Pan Am tragedy.

Ask John and Barbara Zwynenberg of Nyack, New York. Their son Mark, 29, was one of the 189 Americans killed by the powerful bomb that buried their jetliner from the sky over Scotland on Dec. 21, 1988. The terrorists evidently struck an American civilian target to avenge the U.S. bombing of Libya in 1986.

Last month the Internal Revenue Service mailed the Zwynenbergs a bill for \$6.4 million, payable in 90 days, based on an estimate of what their son's estate may get someday from a still pending suit against the now defunct airline and its insurer. That followed earlier IRS warnings to the Zwynenberg family to pay smaller amounts to settle the claim.

Mistakes happen. Computers do dumb things. The IRS can't be serious. Those were my first reactions, and those of the Zwynenbergs as well. But their calls and my follow-up contacts elicited only stonewalling from the Hartford, Connecticut, district office that mailed the retired couple the estate tax liability notice dated Nov. 17. As far as the IRS is concerned, the bill stands. Merry Christmas. And good-bye.

Margaret Milner Richardson, the IRS commissioner, should check into what is being done in her name in this case. It is Kafkaesque.

As a group, the families of the victims of Pan Am 103 have repeatedly spurned attempts by highly paid American lawyers working for Colonel Gadhafi and Egyptian go-betweens to buy them off. The families want justice, not money. They want the two Libyan agents identified as the bombers by history's most extensive criminal investigation handed over for trial in Britain or the United States, as United Nations resolutions demand.

The IRS fails to the level of the Libyans' hired legal guns by reducing this tragedy to one more payday. The Zwynenberg case is a ludicrous example of the bureaucracy's insensitivity to the large issues of morality, justice and America's standing abroad that the unresolved bombing of Pan Am 103 raises.

What solicitude the American gov-

ernment has shown in this case is being lavished instead on the Egyptian government, which is upset over articles in the American press calling attention to President Hosni Mubarak's close ties to Colonel Gadhafi. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau recently traveled to Cairo to reassure the Egyptians that the Clinton administration was not critical of Egypt for its ties to Libya, according to a Dec. 4 Egyptian newspaper interview with Mr. Pelletreau that the State Department has not officially challenged.

Mr. Pelletreau will have an opportunity to spell out what he said in Cairo. Senator Edward Kennedy has taken a consistent interest in Pan Am 103 and has written asking Mr. Pelletreau to explain the department's view of Egypt's links to Libya.

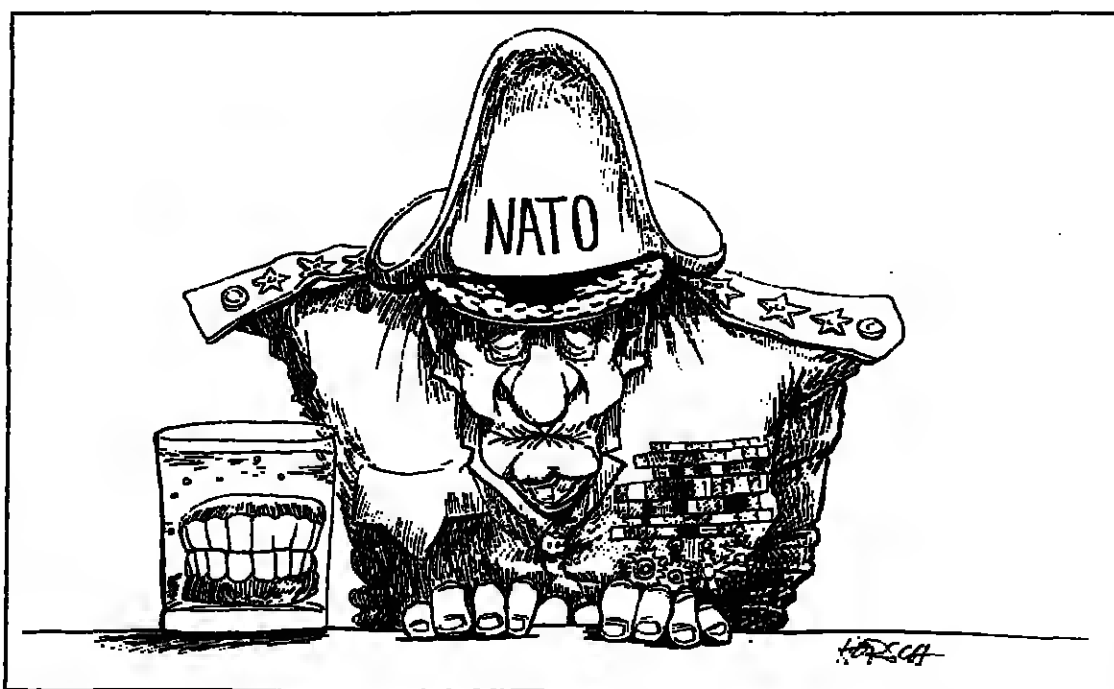
The unnecessary stroking of President Mubarak for the Egyptian public smacks of the kind of clientism — the kind of patronizing explaining away of a client's vulnerability — that has led the United States into disasters in Iran, Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East.

It reinforces my sense of a letting down at the State Department in the official campaign against Libya, despite Secretary of State Warren Christopher's commitment to "maintain the rigor of sanctions and increase them" soon. The Near East bureau seems to have bought the Egyptian line that Colonel Gadhafi represents "a bulwark against Islamic fundamentalism" — that he is a lesser evil. The vigorous protests that Algeria has recently made over Colonel Gadhafi's support for fundamentalist revolutionaries there puts the lie to that view.

Nor has he abandoned his support for terrorism, as Cairo claims. When the French recently arrested and then quickly released Ali Omar Mansour, a key Libyan intelligence agent, without letting the United States question him about Pan Am 103, the head of the State Department's counterterrorism unit handily assured me that he had no idea who Mr. Mansour was and expressed no concern about the French action.

Maybe that is business as usual for counterterrorism heads, just as dunning a bereaved family is for the IRS and stroking clients is for assistant secretaries of state. Taken together, they are the acts of a government that has lost sight of the meaning of the terrorist crime of the century — not just for the families but for America's sense of itself and its national honor.

The Washington Post



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Expect More Trouble at Sea

Regarding "U.S. carrier and Chinese submarine raise tensions" (Dec. 15):

The October incident in the Yellow Sea is consistent with longstanding U.S. naval policy under the Freedom of Navigation, or FON, program. The program is most famous for similar incidents in the 1980s, in waters claimed by Libya in the Gulf of Sidra and by the Soviet Union in the Black Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk. But it has also been used to contest claims made by about 40 other countries, including friendly ones like Canada. Although the program is meant to reinforce the right of innocent passage, activities under the program are secret. Critics say the program has become, in effect, the navy's own, independent foreign policy.

China has been ripe for such U.S. exercises for a long time, but especially since 1992. In that year it promulgated a law asserting Chinese sovereignty beyond its internationally recognized territorial waters to include most of the Yellow Sea, as well as contested island groups in the East and South China seas. The United States has not accepted these claims. China has developed its own variant of the FON program with a series of cruises meant to "exercise territorial sovereignty on behalf of our ancestral land," in the words of Vice Admiral Zhang Xusun.

Although the Law of the Sea Convention, which took force on Nov. 16, stipulates how territorial waters and exclusive economic zones should be

defined and provides for innocent passage through areas like the contested island groups, it does little to help resolve conflicting claims to islands and enclosed seas. The United States, which contests the convention's assertion that seabed resources are the "common heritage of mankind," accepts the convention's definitions of territorial waters and exclusive economic zones.

The inescapable conclusion is that incidents like the one in October are the shape of things to come. While few observers expect China to use force in dislodging rival claimants, it has shown its willingness to engage in low-level naval skirmishes as part of its effort to create a fait accompli in the South China Sea. As China develops a greater capability to confront challengers through its naval modernization and comes to see its claims as more legitimate because of its series of demonstrative cruises and exercises, we should expect more incidents between the U.S. and Chinese navies.

When they occur, it should be remembered that they do not signal a special singularity or deterioration of U.S.-Chinese relations, as reflected by the unwillingness of U.S. officials to raise a fuss over the Yellow Sea incident. Rather they are evidence that neither side's navy has abandoned what it sees as a legitimate role in establishing order on the seas.

ERIC ARNETT, Stockholm.

The writer is author of "Gunboat Diplomacy and the Bomb" and "Military Technology: The Case of China."

Bosnia in Another Light

We hear a lot of discussion about what we should (or should not) do in Bosnia, but almost none regarding what we could do. After the wars in Vietnam and Afghanistan, it is not at all clear that a foreign intervention on any scale in the Balkans would be effective. What is clear is that even the present level of outside interference is deeply resented, if not actively opposed, by many countries here, which see the situation in Bosnia in an entirely different light.

TIMOTHY DEVINNEY, Hania, Greece.

Delors's Restraint

Regarding "No' From Delors Stuns French Left" (Dec. 12) by Joseph Fichet:

The article fails to mention the age factor (Jacques Delors is 69), which Mr. Delors himself evoked as reason for not running. Furthermore, the Frenchman's "choked voice" sounded quite focused to these ears.

PHILIPPE ARONSON, Paris.

Mi havas, vi havas, si havas

Regarding "France to Propose EU Pupils Take 2 Extra Languages" (Dec. 15):

To promote European understanding, France intends to propose that two foreign languages be taught in all secondary schools in European

The Kovalski Christmas Star With a Hindu-Muslim Glow

By Dominique Lapierre

PARIS — Christians represent a small minority in Calcutta, yet the birth of Jesus is celebrated with as much devotion as are the births of the Hindu god Krishna, of the prophet Mohammed, of Buddha, of the Sikhs' guru Nanak, or of Mahavira, the saint of the Jains.

I spent a memorable Christmas in

MEANWHILE

a place called the City of Joy, one of the many slums of this megapolis of 12 million people. In it, more than 75,000 people are crammed together in subhuman conditions. There is only one water fountain for every 3,500 inhabitants, one latrine for every 3,000. Average family income is less than 20 cents a day. It is, in many ways, hell on earth.

Yet, I found there more love, more sharing, more capacity to endure — and to celebrate — than in many affluent Western cities.

Only a few Christian families live in this overwhelmingly Hindu and Muslim slum. But once a year everyone shares in the celebration of the greatest Christian event. Rickshaws and tea shops, butcher shops and vegetable stalls are decorated with flower garlands. Hindu and Muslim neighbors help their Christian friends build a monumental creche. Loudspeakers broadcast carols and hymns above the rooftops.

My friend Stephen Kovalski, a European monk, has lived the life of the poor here for 15 years. A group of young girls helps him paint the walls of his modest room. They place a small creche under his crucifix and plant sticks of incense. They hang garlands of marigolds and roses, forming a canopy.

For me, the most beautiful symbol of Christmas magic in this slum is the enormous luminous star on the end of a bamboo cane suspended over Mr. Kovalski's hovel. Two neighbors, a Hindu and a Muslim, had the idea of boistering this emblem into the sky, as if to say to the slum's inhabitants: "Don't be afraid, you are not alone. On this night, when the God of the Christians is born, there is already a savior among us."

I have never entered a church so full of flowers as the nearby parish church. In the dark, Our Lady of the Loving Heart looks like a maharaja's palace on coronation night.

Splendid bouquets of amaryllises, roses and marigolds decorate the altar, offered by inhabitants of nearby slums grateful for some gift from God — finding a bit of paying work, or the miraculous healing of a family member from cholera.

Services are held at churches elsewhere in Calcutta, too. What a contrast! Around Saint-Thomas, a smart parish in the Park Street area, dozens of private cars, taxis and rickshaws unload affluent worshippers. Garlands glitter. The night resonates with carols. Children from the slums sell the little Santa Claus they have made.

Now it is midnight. Jesus is born in Calcutta, for the rich and the poor.

The writer is author of "The City of Joy." In the Calcutta area he supports schools, clinics and rescue centers for leprosy and handicapped children; he asks that donations be sent to Action Pour les Enfants des Lépreux de Calcutta, 26, Avenue Kleber, 75116 Paris, France. This comment was contributed to the Herald Tribune.

Our Newest Chrysler Has A Lot To Live Up To.

How do you build a car that has to live up to some amazing automotive reputations? The best way we know is to borrow a little from each. And that's just what we've done with the new Neon. From Chrysler's Vision we've taken cab-forward design, which gives the car a wide track for precise handling while maximizing interior space. And speaking of space, Neon makes imaginative

of its 16-valve, 132-horsepower (98 kW) engine can't help but remind you of Viper's love of the open road. And there's a spirit of adventure that undoubtedly comes from Jeep, Grand Cherokee. But as much as Chrysler's Neon borrows from its relatives, its personality is all its own—that of a good friend and a great car Neon may have a lot to live up to, but the competition has even



Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Corporation.

HEALTH / SCIENCE

Cold Fusion Is Back:
It's Still a Long ShotBy Malcolm W. Browne
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Ever since the first hydrogen bomb was detonated in 1952, scientists have sought to harness thermonuclear fusion as a peaceful power source, but that goal has proved tantalizingly elusive. Now, however, there seems to be an outside chance that a new technique could achieve it. Bombarding microscopic bubbles with intense sound waves could convert the bubbles into minuscule fusion furnaces.

Recent experiments by a half-dozen laboratories suggest that a mysterious phenomenon called sonoluminescence may be capable of raising the temperature of gas trapped in a tiny bubble to 1.8 million degrees Fahrenheit or more — enough, in principle, to ignite fusion.

If fusion were achieved, a microbubble could be expected to radiate neutrons, nuclear particles produced by thermonuclear reactions. So far, the laboratories experimenting with sonoluminescence have failed to detect any neutrons, but there are other signs that the project is far from hopeless.

In the 1930s German physicists discovered that when intense sound waves vibrating at a fixed frequency are blasted into a liquid filled with tiny bubbles, the bubbles oscillate, collapse and emit flashes of light.

In the decades since the discovery of sonoluminescence, physicists have occasionally experimented with the phenomenon, but only in recent years have many of the most startling characteristics of sonoluminescence come to light.

In 1987, a research group led by Dr. Kenneth S. Suslick, a chemist at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, created clouds of sonoluminescent bubbles in a bath of liquid dodecane, a hydrocarbon solvent similar to gasoline.

By measuring the colors of the spectrum

of light emitted by the bubbles, Dr. Suslick calculated that the gas in the bubbles had to be at a temperature of about 9,000 degrees Fahrenheit, a startlingly high temperature, considering that the surrounding liquid did not appear to be heated at all.

Dr. Suslick's group created clouds of light-emitting bubbles by a process called cavitation, simply by exposing fluids to intense sound "fields" — a permeating environment of sound created by transducers (little loudspeakers) surrounding the fluid. In a typical reaction flask, Dr. Suslick found, bubbles formed and collapsed at a rate of several million a second.

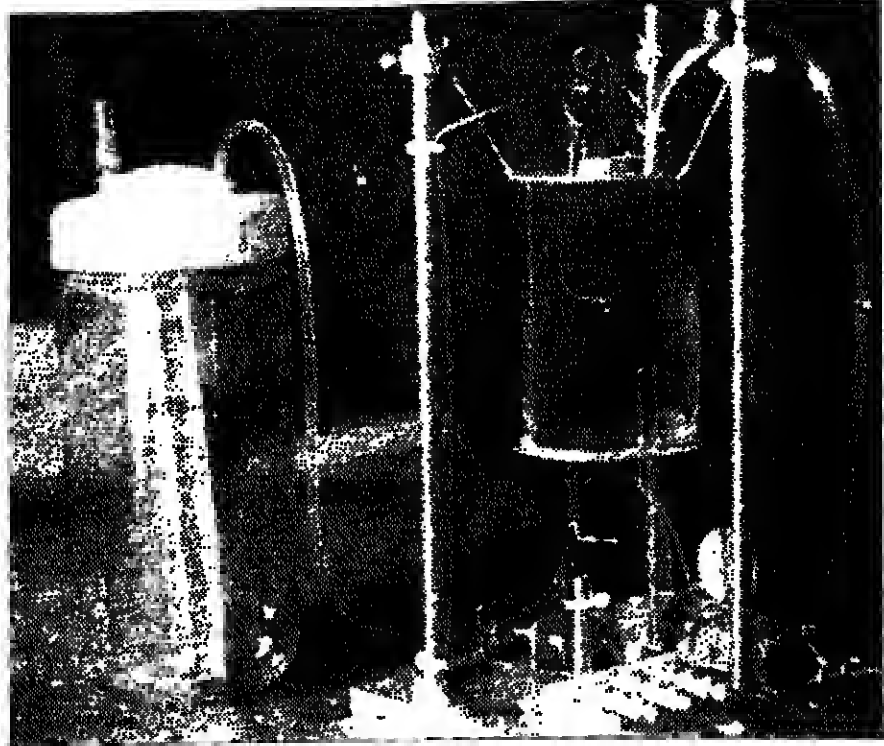
At the University of California in Los Angeles, a team of physicists headed by Dr. Seth J. Putterman reported last year that they had achieved vastly higher temperatures using a different technique.

Dr. Putterman's group has focused on the behavior of single bubbles rather than clouds of them. In his technique, a reaction flask is filled with water and evacuated of every trace of gas.

A tiny piece of heating wire is used to boil just enough of the water to create a single microscopic bubble. As the water vapor inside this bubble cools, it leaves a vacuum, into which gas dissolved in the surrounding water is drawn.

Once the bubble is formed, the sound field blasted into the flask suspends the bubble in place and forces it to begin oscillating in and out, in synchronous rhythm with the sound frequency. After about five seconds, something very peculiar occurs: The bubble begins to emit intense but very brief pulses of light.

What happens, Dr. Putterman and his colleagues believe, is that a spherical, inward-moving shock wave traveling faster than the speed of sound is created by the violent, sound-induced collapse of the bubble. Since the bubble is almost perfectly spherical, the imploding shock wave



Equipment for generating sonoluminescence, a new approach to cold fusion.

crashes in on itself, the gas within it is apparently heated to an astronomical temperature and the bubble emits a flash so brief that even equipment used to study hydrogen bomb explosions has proved inadequate to measure its duration.

In a paper published by the journal *Science* in October, Dr. Putterman and three of his colleagues, Dr. Robert Hiller, Dr. Keith Weninger and Dr. Bradley P. Barber, calculated that the sound energy pumped into a test flask is concentrated by the collapsing bubble inside to an intensity one trillion times its initial density.

Because the light that escapes from the flask includes fairly strong ultraviolet radiation, which is produced by incandescent objects only at high temperatures, the UCLA group has calculated that the temperature of the sonoluminescent bubble must briefly reach at least 180,000 degrees

with each collapse. Some other scientists, including Dr. Suslick, believe the temperature within an imploding single bubble could exceed 1.8 million degrees.

But a major obstacle to achieving fusion is that this process must join together atoms of isotopes of hydrogen (either deuterium or a mixture of deuterium and tritium — the same mixture that fuels hydrogen bombs). This yields helium nuclei and tremendous amounts of energy. The problem, Dr. Putterman said, is that getting bubbles of hydrogen isotopes to produce sonoluminescence is proving to be "very, very difficult" — one of the mysteries of sonoluminescence.

Dr. Putterman remains undaunted by the slow progress. "At this point no one has stood up to disprove sonoluminescence, and that's what keeps us going," he said. "If it worked it would be a fabulous event. Until someone shows it's impossible we're going to forge ahead."

Spacecraft Maps Sun
From a New AngleBy John Noble Wilford
New York Times Service

PASADENA, California — More than four years and a billion miles out from Earth, a spacecraft named for the legendary wanderer Ulysses, is traveling in unexplored parts of the solar system. These are regions above and below the plane in which the sun's retinue of planets reside, empty quarters dominated by the magnetic fields and streaming particles from the sun's poles.

It took the gravity of Jupiter to bend the Ulysses spacecraft's trajectory "downward" and away from this plane of the ecliptic, sending it where no craft had ever traveled. In observations over the past four months from this new perspective, the spacecraft has presented scientists with some findings they did not expect.

A number of long-standing questions have been answered, but, as usual, there have been major surprises, said Dr. Edward J. Smith, chief scientist for the \$750 million Ulysses project at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory here. The project is a joint venture of the European Space Agency, which built the spacecraft, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Launched from a space shuttle in October 1990, the Ulysses spacecraft last month completed the first survey of the sun's southern polar region, passing over it at a distance more than twice as far from the sun as the average distance from the sun to Earth, or about 185 million miles. (The two Voyager spacecraft, after exploring the outer planets, climbed out of the plane of the ecliptic and toward the edge of the planetary system.) Scientists described the new survey results in interviews and in reports at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco.

The findings concern magnetic fields, cosmic rays and solar winds, the electrically charged atomic particles that blow out

from the sun's outer atmosphere, or corona, in all directions and at great speeds.

The velocities of these winds, it has been observed, are twice as fast in the region out from the sun's polar latitudes. The strength of the sun's magnetic field over the poles is about the same as it is near the equator. And one of the biggest surprises involved cosmic rays, high-energy particles, that arrive from elsewhere in the galaxy, often from exploding stars. These particles were somewhat more dense near the solar poles, but not to the extent expected.

"The cosmic ray results were a total surprise," said Dr. Bruce E. Goldstein, the laboratory's deputy project scientist.

When the sun is relatively quiet, as it is now, the cosmic-ray intensity should be at its peak. The sun's magnetic fields are less powerful at the poles, and scientists thought that would allow perhaps 50 percent more cosmic rays to enter into the solar system there than near the sun's equator and along the plane of the ecliptic extending from the equator.

BUT Ulysses data, which showed only slightly higher cosmic-ray intensities at the solar pole, seemed to be telling a more complicated story. Other instruments may be providing an explanation. The spacecraft's magnetometers revealed strong wave-like variations in the sun's magnetic fields in the polar region. A possible explanation for the waves, scientists suggested, is that the ends of the magnetic line of force attached to the sun are being subjected to churning motions of the sun's surface.

Less surprising but also mystifying was the measurement of solar-wind speeds. A team led by Dr. John Phillips of Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico reported that near the pole solar wind flows away from the sun at about two million miles an hour, nearly twice the velocity of the wind near the solar equator and where the wind arrives in the vicinity of Earth.

Sea Level Rise Confirmed

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — During the first two years of its operation, the most accurate system ever devised for measuring changes in global sea level has discerned a steady rise of more than three millimeters, or about one-tenth of an inch, a year. It may not sound like much, but if this trend continues for another few years, scientists say, it will be solid evidence that the Earth is undergoing a long-term warming trend, probably related to increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Older and less reliable data had strongly suggested that global atmospheric and ocean temperatures were rising, but doubts about the reliability of these measurements had lingered until now: the new satellite measurements enormously improve the precision and reliability of such estimates.

It is possible, scientists concede, that the current trend

might reverse at some point. But if the seas continue to rise from one decade to the next, a time will come when entire countries, Bangladesh and the Netherlands among them, are inundated.

The satellite sea level data were presented this month at a meeting of the American Geophysical Society, at which about 70 papers described results obtained by the Topex/Poseidon satellite, a joint French-American project designed to study ocean circulation patterns.

The rate of sea level increase measured by the satellite's radar altimeter, powered by a giant array of solar panels, "is in reasonable agreement with tide gauge results," according to Dr. R. Steven Nerem of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

The traditional method of measuring sea level uses mechanical tide gauges placed in

harbors and other coastal sites, from which readings are averaged. But Dr. Lee-Ling Fu of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, the project scientist of the Topex/Poseidon project, said that tide gauges were too widely spaced and too few to provide reliable data for the Earth's oceans.

The satellite, by contrast, makes about 500,000 sea level measurements a day, each of them at a different place and each precise to within two inches. Because the instrument makes so many measurements, local sea level variations caused by wind, tides and other factors are averaged out, he said.

The satellite covers all oceans lying between 66 degrees north and south latitudes, omitting only the ice-covered polar regions.

Dr. Fu and other participants in the project acknowledge that two years of observations cannot prove the existence of long-term climate trends. Nevertheless, these observations corroborate the trend of sea level measurements made over the last century using tide gauges.

Malcolm W. Browne

How the Brain Works: Thinking Modular

By Curt Suplee
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — For those who study the brain, perhaps the toughest question has always been: Who's minding the store?

From Plato to the late 19th century, the answer was simple: There must be one central control mechanism (Descartes imagined it as a homunculus, or little man) that oversees all the separate mental functions. But lately — and especially in the past few years — many scientists have come to believe that the brain is more like a committee without a chairman, in which rogue members may sometimes act alone or fail to show up for meetings.

Such discoveries, the Washington neurologist Richard M. Restak explains in his new book, "The Modular Brain," are part of a "truly revolutionary theory of the brain's operation, modular theory." This view "holds that our experience is not a matter of combining at one master site . . . all the separate components into one central perception. As strange as it may sound, there is no master site, no center of convergence." Instead, many different sections do their work simultaneously in parallel.

It now seems probable, he writes,

that "knowledge within the brain is not stored as a unity (a tiger) but according to separate components or modules (the sight of the tiger, its roar, its smell, etc.). Further, some of these modular components may malfunction without affecting any of the others."

Take the strange case of patient S.M., reported by a team from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in the journal *Nature*. This 30-year-old woman with a normal IQ but a "remarkable" history of "defective personal and social decision-making" suffers from a rare form of brain damage that destroyed an almond-sized structure called the amygdala.

As a result, she is almost completely deficient at recognizing fear in pictures of faces. She also does not perceive much similarity between even closely related facial expressions such as happiness and surprise. Yet she can immediately recognize pictures of familiar individual faces (including some she has not seen in years), and can easily learn to recognize new ones.

The findings indicate not only that the tiny amygdala may play an enormous role in discerning the emotional significance of social situations but also that mental processing of facial identity and facial emotion are very different activities that take place in "anatomically separable neural systems."

"It's really no different," said Antonio Damasio, a neurologist who heads the Iowa team, "from what we now know is happening in language systems" — for example, that nouns and verbs are processed in different parts of the brain.

Other kinds of localized brain damage can lead to a variety of peculiar problems that Dr. Restak describes, including one subject who lost the ability to name animals but could easily name inanimate objects, another who could recognize tools but not musical instruments, and yet another who was unable to tell whether a bee or a house was larger, though she knew exactly what bees and houses were.

Neuroscientists have two ways to study such conditions: surgically altering the brains of animals to see how individual parts affect perception or behavior, and waiting for the rare human patient who has a highly localized brain defect.

PATIENT S.M.'s case is valuable because only her amygdala was destroyed, thus allowing researchers to investigate the specific role of the organ and to compare their findings with the results of animal experiments.

There have been enough of those to indicate that the amygdala is intimately involved in making correct social

judgments as well as imprinting memories with emotional meaning. When lab monkeys have their amygdalae destroyed, they lose their normal hostility to the approach of human experimenters and much of their ability to determine which direction a face is looking. In the wild, such animals cannot find their place in the group hierarchy and "lose their ability to pick up the social signals that bind members of the colony into a unit," Dr. Restak writes.

In addition, the amygdala appears indispensable in learning fear. Joseph LeDoux of New York University trained rats to fear a sound by following it with a stomp of the experimenter's foot. But when their amygdalae were damaged — and everything else was normal — no amount of stomping could make them afraid.

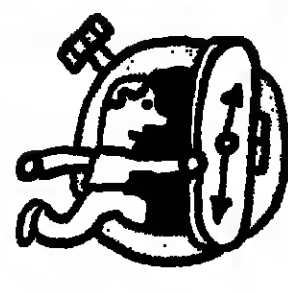
Patient S.M.'s impaired recognition of fear provides new evidence of the human amygdala's function and the brain's modularity. Ten years ago, Dr. Damasio said, it would have been reasonable to assume that the amygdala was involved in processing perception of all emotions. But "the very striking finding of this study is that it seems to be that it is preferentially involved with fear," he said. That suggests that perhaps "in many other aspects of brain function, neural systems are not general purpose, but are highly selective."

BOOKS

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• Todd Gitlin, author of "The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage," is reading Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past."

"It's a momentary exit from ordinary time." (Anne Dziubak, IHT)



supremacy. It regards the male's (usually the white male's) insistence on maintaining power as the key that unlocks the mysteries of individual actions and institutional behavior. And it offers a simple prescription for radical change: reject whatever is tainted with patriarchy and replace it with something embodying gynocentric values.

Patai, a professor of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst,

and Koertge, a professor of the history and philosophy of science at Indiana University, are both longtime veterans of women's studies programs, and they identify themselves as feminists who have become disillusioned with the direction that feminism has taken in recent years.

We are treated to laments about feminism's insistence on depicting women as victims in need of self-esteem. Once again, we are shown some absurdities

resulting from feminism's efforts to police the English language. Once again, we are given a litany of horror stories meant to illustrate the dangers of political correctness.

In "Professing Feminism," Patai and Koertge cite cases in which students are chastised for failing to toe the party line and are charged with "resistance."

They recount the story of a woman who is accused by her colleagues of exhibiting "masculinist categories of thought" because she is an economist and another story about an "art project" exhibited on a University of Maryland campus that "listed as 'potential rapists' male names pulled randomly from a student directory."

When it comes to analyzing the basic tenets of radical feminism and their practical consequences in academia, the authors are convincing. "It is ironic, and tragic as well," they write, "that feminism, which originally denounced traditional education for its failures to

act in accordance with its self-proclaimed precepts of justice, fairness, equality and dispassionate evaluation, has so enthusiastically trashed the very principles on which its early (and, on the whole, warranted) denunciations rested."

Patai and Koertge repeatedly illustrate in these pages the unfortunate tendency of radical feminism to replicate some of the very unfairnesses and stereotypes feminism once decried. They point out that women's studies programs tend to reinforce the simplistic theory that associated intellect and logic with men, and sentiment and emotion with women.

The new feminists, they say, have simply reversed the traditional hierarchy of values associated with these identifications: subjective, "female" impressions are now supposed to be more valid than logically constructed, "male" arguments.

Michiko Kakutani is on the staff of The New York Times.

By Alan Truscott

VICTORY has not been staled by repetition for Nick Nickell. After leading his team successfully in the Reisinger Board-a-Match team, he was whooping with joy. This was his fourth win in five attempts at major national team titles in the last 18 months.

His partner on each occasion was Richard Freeman. Their teammates, all experienced professionals, were Bob Wolff, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell.

The Reisinger was a two-horse race. The Nickell team battled the team of James Cayne, Chuck Burger, Bob Goldman, Paul Soloway, Mike Passell and Mark Lair.

On the diagrammed deal, when playing each other, both teams rose to the occasion on defense. In one room, South settled in three no-trump after his partner had used a fourth-suit two-spade bid en route to making a strong raise in clubs.

Freeman, as West, avoided a spade lead, since the king was clearly on his right. He chose a passive heart, and South won in dummy and led the diamond king. Nickell, East, won with

the ace and defended expertly by shifting to the spade ten. This insured four spade tricks for the defense and defeated the contract.

East had provided for the possibility of the actual situation, knowing that this would be wrong in one unlikely situation: if South had held king-queen-nine of spades, a low return would have been better, but in that case, the defense was probably doomed in any event.

NORTH
♠ 32
♥ A K Q 9 8
♦ K 8
♣ Q 10 7 3

WEST
♠ A Q J 7
♥ 7 6
♦ 5 4 3
♣ 8 6

EAST
♠ 10 8 5 4
♥ 10 4 3 2
♦ A 10 7
♣ 8 6

SOUTH (D)
♠ K 9 6
♥ 5
♦ Q J 9 3 2
♣ A K 5 4

Neither side was vulnerable. The bidding:

South: 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass 3 N.T. Pass 3 N.T. Pass 4 N.T. Pass 4 N.T. Pass 5 N.T. Pass 5 N.T. Pass 6 N.T. Pass 6 N.T. Pass 7 N.T. Pass 7 N.T. Pass 8 N.T. Pass 8 N.T. Pass 9 N.T. Pass 9 N.T. Pass 10 N.T. Pass 10 N.T. Pass 11 N.T. Pass 11 N.T. Pass 12 N.T. Pass 12 N.T. Pass 13 N.T. Pass 13 N.T. Pass 14 N.T. Pass 14 N.T. Pass 15 N.T. Pass 15 N.T. Pass 16 N.T. Pass 16 N.T. Pass 17 N.T. Pass 17 N.T. Pass 18 N.T. Pass 18 N.T. Pass 19 N.T. Pass 19 N.T. Pass 20 N.T. Pass 20 N.T. Pass 21 N.T. Pass 21 N.T. Pass 22 N.T. Pass 22 N.T. Pass 23 N.T. Pass 23 N.T. Pass 24 N.T. Pass 24 N.T. Pass 25 N.T. Pass 25 N.T. Pass 26 N.T. Pass 26 N.T. Pass 27 N.T. Pass 27 N.T. Pass 28 N.T. Pass 28 N.T. Pass 29 N.T. Pass 29 N.T. Pass 30 N.T. Pass 30 N.T. Pass 31 N.T. Pass 31 N.T. Pass 32 N.T. Pass 32 N.T. Pass 33 N.T. Pass 33 N.T. Pass 34 N.T. Pass 34 N.T. Pass 35 N.T. Pass 35 N.T. Pass 36 N.T. Pass 36 N.T. Pass 37 N.T. Pass 37 N.T. Pass 38 N.T. Pass 38 N.T. Pass 39 N.T. Pass 39 N.T. Pass 40 N.T. 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MARKET DIARY

Shares Rebound
On Profit Outlook

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches
NEW YORK — U.S. stocks rallied Wednesday after two days of losses amid prospects for a year-end rally and optimism that growth in corporate profits would accelerate.

Gains in software, retailing, semiconductor and financial stocks fueled the advance.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 34.65 points, to

3,801.80, and at one point had advanced as much as 50.47 points.

Two rounds of computer-guided buy programs added 23.5 points to the average, according to Birinyi Associates. The 50-point gain triggered the New York Stock Exchange's "downward" rule, curbing some trades in connection with stock-index arbitrage, for the first time since Oct. 28.

"All the liquidation pressure was over a week ago, and there is no serious selling interest," said Michael Metz, market strategist at Oppenheimer. "This is creating something of a supply vacuum, which is allowing the stock market to lift."

Dollar Gains as Money
Returns From Mexico

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches
NEW YORK — Financial turmoil in Mexico and a round of speculative dollar buying against European currencies jolted the foreign-exchange market out of pre-Christmas sluggishness Wednesday, pushing the U.S. currency higher.

The dollar finished at 1.5806

Deutsche marks, up from 1.5702 DM Tuesday, and at 100.475 yen, up from 100.170 yen. It also rose to 5.541 French francs from 5.414 francs and to 1.334 Swiss francs from 1.328 francs.

The pound weakened to \$1.5420 from \$1.5605.

With financial markets in Mexico, Argentina and Brazil suffering sharp declines, traders said it stood to reason that some of the money pouring out of those markets found a home in the United States.

Mexico's currency was devalued on Tuesday and stocks and the peso were under pressure Wednesday. The turmoil prompted a panic among U.S. money managers with invest-

ments in Latin American markets, analysts said. That heightened currency expectations for a rally in American securities if those funds are repatriated.

Traders said a rally in U.S. stock markets also helped the dollar.

The Federal Reserve Board's failure to raise interest rates Tuesday after its policy-making Open Market Committee met did not dent the dollar's value.

"There was really no reaction to the lack of Fed action, because no action was expected," said Kevin Weir, vice president of foreign exchange sales at ABN-Amro Bank in Chicago.

Many currency traders instead are expecting the central bank to raise rates at the end of January.

In Germany, meanwhile, the Bundesbank council will meet Thursday for the last time this year, and analysts said they expected the central bank to leave interest rates unchanged.

(Bloomberg, AP)

See Associated Press Dec. 21



THE DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE

Source: J.A.S.O.N.D.

NYSE Most Active

Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
IBM	102.50	101.50	102.00	+0.50
Microsoft	55.00	54.00	54.50	+0.50
Oracle	35.00	34.00	34.50	+0.50
Intel	25.00	24.00	24.50	+0.50
Apple	15.00	14.00	14.50	+0.50
Compaq	10.00	9.00	9.50	+0.50
HP	8.00	7.00	7.50	+0.50
Novell	6.00	5.00	5.50	+0.50
Lotus	4.00	3.00	3.50	+0.50
Visa	3.00	2.00	2.50	+0.50

NASDAQ Most Active

Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Intel	25.00	24.00	24.50	+0.50
Microsoft	55.00	54.00	54.50	+0.50
Oracle	35.00	34.00	34.50	+0.50
IBM	102.50	101.50	102.00	+0.50
Apple	15.00	14.00	14.50	+0.50
Compaq	10.00	9.00	9.50	+0.50
HP	8.00	7.00	7.50	+0.50
Novell	6.00	5.00	5.50	+0.50
Lotus	4.00	3.00	3.50	+0.50
Visa	3.00	2.00	2.50	+0.50

AMEX Most Active

Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
IBM	102.50	101.50	102.00	+0.50
Microsoft	55.00	54.00	54.50	+0.50
Oracle	35.00	34.00	34.50	+0.50
IBM	102.50	101.50	102.00	+0.50
Apple	15.00	14.00	14.50	+0.50
Compaq	10.00	9.00	9.50	+0.50
HP	8.00	7.00	7.50	+0.50
Novell	6.00	5.00	5.50	+0.50
Lotus	4.00	3.00	3.50	+0.50
Visa	3.00	2.00	2.50	+0.50

Market Sales

	Today Close	Prev. close.
NYSE	378.81	405.15
Amex	19.91	22.96
Nasdaq	319.97	325.50
<i>in millions.</i>		

Dow Jones Averages

Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Index	3771.50	3811.50	3781.50	+34.65
Indust.	1207.50	1247.50	1217.50	+17.00
Transp.	107.50	112.50	110.50	+3.00
Utilities	107.50	112.50	110.50	+3.00
Finance	107.50	112.50	110.50	+3.00
SP 100	107.50	112.50	110.50	+3.00

Standard & Poor's Indexes

	High	Low	Close	Ch're
Industrials	548.69	542.64	546.49	+ 3.85
Transp.	346.50	341.24	343.11	+ 0.96
Utilities	152.81	151.67	151.79	- 0.20
Finance	42.30	41.92	41.98	+ 0.04
SP 500	461.70	457.10	459.61	+ 2.51

NYSE Indexes

NYSE indexes				
	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	251.78	249.77	250.94	+ 1.14
Industries	318.13	315.17	317.08	+ 1.91

NASDAQ Indexes

NASDAQ Indexes				
	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	734.44	731.50	734.44	+1.15
Indust.	734.44	731.50	734.44	+1.15
Transp.	734.44	731.50	734.44	+1.15
Utilities	734.44	731.50	734.44	+1.15
Finance	734.44	731.50	734.44	+1.15

AMEX Stock Index

Transp.	634.41	628.97	633.27	-2.68
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AMEX Stock Index

Dow Jones Bond Averages

20 Bonds	Close	Prev.
20 Bonds	94.54	94.54
10 Utilities	94.54	94.54
10 Industrials	94.54	94.54

NYSE Diary

Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged

AMEX Diary

Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged

NASDAQ Diary

Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged
Advanced	Declined	Unchanged

Spot Commodities

Commodity	Today	Prev.
Commodity	Today	Prev.
Commodity	Today	Prev.
Commodity	Today	Prev.
Commodity	Today	Prev.

EUROPEAN FUTURES

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Metals

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

BRENT CRUDE OIL (LIFE)

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Financial

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Stock Indexes

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Dividends

Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay

STOCK

Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.

CORRECTION

Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.

INITIAL

Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.

RESUMED

Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.

REGULAR

Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.

Industrials

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Grains

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Metals

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

LIVESTOCK

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Financial

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Stock Indexes

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Commodity Indexes

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Commodity Indexes

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Commodity Indexes

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Commodity Indexes

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Commodity Indexes

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Commodity Indexes

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Commodity Indexes

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Commodity Indexes

High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.
High	Low	Last	Chg.

Commodity Indexes

14.49	82.50	Mar 95	169.00	175.50	169.00	174.25
15.10	85.00	Jun 95	169.40	169.40	169.40	169.40
16.00	151.00	Nov 95				169.50
17.00	81.00	Dec 95				169.10
18.50	151.35	Mar 96				169.00
19.00	170.00	May 96				167.15

100

Wednesday's 4 p.m.
This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

C-C									
32	72	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
33	73	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
34	74	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
35	75	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
36	76	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
37	77	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
38	78	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
39	79	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
40	80	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
41	81	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
42	82	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
43	83	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
44	84	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
45	85	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
46	86	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
47	87	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
48	88	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
49	89	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
50	90	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
51	91	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
52	92	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
53	93	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
54	94	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
55	95	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
56	96	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
57	97	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
58	98	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
59	99	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
60	100	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
61	101	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
62	102	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
63	103	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
64	104	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
65	105	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
66	106	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
67	107	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
68	108	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
69	109	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
70	110	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
71	111	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
72	112	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
73	113	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
74	114	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
75	115	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
76	116	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
77	117	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
78	118	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
79	119	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
80	120	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
81	121	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
82	122	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
83	123	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
84	124	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
85	125	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
86	126	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
87	127	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
88	128	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
89	129	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
90	130	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
91	131	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
92	132	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
93	133	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
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195	235	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
196	236	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
197	237	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
198	238	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
199	239	BNC	1	16	42	8	100	57	27
200	240	BNC	1						

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2%	-
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Wednesday's Closing
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

	C			
19. 100% F&L	52b 55	13	8	16
20. 100% F&L			102	5
21. 100% F&L	810112		121	7
22. 100% F&L		6	41	8
23. 100% F&L			419	1
24. 100% F&L			116	16

D-25		D-26	
1	100	1	100
2	100	2	100
3	100	3	100
4	100	4	100
5	100	5	100
6	100	6	100
7	100	7	100
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111	2120	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127
112	2121	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128
113	2122	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129
114	2123	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130
115	2124	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131
116	2125	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132
117	2126	2126	2127						

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Sales figures are unaffected. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 30 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest 30 weeks. The stock dividend amounts to 26 percent or more has been paid, the year's high-low range and the year's high-low range are the same. Unlike other types of stock dividends, the 26 percent or more has been paid, the year's high-low range and the year's high-low range are the same. Unlike other types of stock dividends, the 26 percent or more has been paid, the year's high-low range and the year's high-low range are the same.

1 - dividend declared or sold in preceding 12 months.
2 - dividend declared or sold in preceding 12 months.
3 - dividend declared or sold in preceding 12 months.
4 - dividend declared or sold in preceding 12 months.
5 - stock split. Dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend.
6 - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action.
7 - dividend declared or sold this year, on accumulative basis.
8 - new issue in the past 32 weeks. The high-low range begins with - insert date delivery.
9 - the stock dividend.
10 - dividend declared or sold in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend.
11 - stock split. Dividend declared with date of split.
12 - stock split.
13 - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date.
14 - trading market.
15 - dividend declared or receivable or being reauthorized on the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such company when distributed.
16 - when without warrants.
17 - with warrants.
18 - ex-dividend or ex-rights.
19 - without warrants.
20 - without warrants.
21 - ex-dividend and sales in front.
22 - yd - in.
23 - yd - in.
24 - yd - in.

SPORTS

NHL Settlement
Reported Closer

By Joe Lapointe
New York Times Service

TORONTO — The National Hockey League dispute is nearing a possible conclusion, according to people with knowledge of the collective bargaining negotiations, who have confirmed that the team owners have offered the players a deal that doesn't include a payroll tax.

It is the tax, which the players call a salary cap in disguise, that has kept the players locked out so far and postponed the start of the season for 82 days, as of Wednesday.

The league also has offered the Players Association a deal that includes a salary tax, but the player representatives from the 26 teams emphatically rejected that approach Tuesday night when they met at a lakefront hotel here.

"There won't be a deal with a tax in it," said Adam Graves of the New York Rangers, when he emerged from the three-hour session. "I imagine that talks will continue, but not in a vein with a tax included. The basis of a deal is in place for the most part. We've moved in the middle ground to get something

done. This is very, very complex."

That meeting set the stage for a general membership meeting here on Wednesday that is expected to draw at least 200 players. No one in the union would speak about details of the eventual compromise, but it is expected that the players will give further ground on arbitration procedures, which many owners have said is a primary cause of the salary inflation they are seeking to control.

No formal negotiations are scheduled, although they could resume soon. Full bargaining broke off Dec. 6 when the commissioner, Gary Bettman, re-introduced the concept of a payroll tax, which he called a "contribution."

But last week, during sub-committee meetings attended by two persons from each side, both sides explored solutions that did not include a tax.

The players already have agreed, tentatively, to major concessions on an entry-level salary cap and reductions in arbitration and free agency for young players. The owners have offered increased free-agency privileges for veterans.



Baseball union chief Donald Fehr looked more pleased than he sounded in Washington.

McMorris Is Baseball's New Designated Dealmaker

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — As the major league baseball players strike passed its 131st day, matching the length of the abbreviated 1994 season, the club owners turned to Jerry McMorris, the owner of the Colorado Rockies, as their latest hope for a settlement.

After meeting alone with the head of the union, Donald Fehr, for more than two hours Tuesday night, McMorris sounded optimistic that the strike could be ended this week without the imposition of a salary cap, although he admitted that the discussions had led nowhere so far.

Fehr sounded pessimistic, and negotiators face a management-imposed deadline of Thursday midnight to reach agreement or have the owners

declare an impasse and implement a salary cap.

"Neither one of us saw a way out of it tonight," Fehr said. "The gulf that separates us remains essentially what it once was. They're insisting on an artificial mechanism that drives salaries down. They admit that that's what they're doing."

McMorris, who said he spent a large part of his private meeting with Fehr discussing revenue sharing and payroll taxes, said that "it would only be fair to say we're still in a deadlocked position. I hope that won't be true tomorrow."

After arriving in Washington during the afternoon, McMorris said, "It's time to make a deal if we're going to get one done. Compromises need to be reached, and we need to get this behind us."

Implementation of a salary cap system by the owners is the "last option," McMorris said. "It's not a choice I want to make. There are solutions to this problem. We've got some flexibility. We have some issues that are very important to us, and the union has some issues that are very important to them."

McMorris said he thought more members of management's bargaining team would arrive Wednesday, but wasn't sure.

"If we can come to some sort of agreement in the secondary tax area, I suspect" a deal would fall into place, McMorris said. "I think there's ground for compromise in other areas."

The National Labor Relations Board ruled against the owners Tuesday for the second

time in less than a week, dismissing their unfair labor practice charge against players for allegedly making threats against potential strikebreakers.

Last week, the agency said it would issue two unfair labor practice complaints against the owners for withholding a \$7.8 million contribution to the players' pension and benefit plan on Aug. 1.

Bud Selig, the acting commissioner, denied that the Colorado Rockies' owner had been sent as the designated dealmaker, but a person close to the talks said it appeared that "McMorris has been empowered with more authority than before."

He became the third man singled out for that role. Richard Ravitch, the clubs'

chief labor executive, was the first, but he has resigned, effective at the end of the month, when his contract expires. John Harrington, chief executive of the Boston Red Sox, was next, given the title of chairman of the negotiating committee on Nov. 10.

But neither Harrington nor three other members of the committee have been involved in the talks this week. Dave Montgomery, chief operating officer of the Philadelphia Phillies, was the only committee member who attended Monday's session.

Selig said from his office in Milwaukee that "it was just felt, quite frankly, that Dave Montgomery and Jerry McMorris are the appropriate people."

"The rest of them will be there when it is appropriate. Dave knows the numbers. Jerry is there because of his background. He's had a long background in labor relations and has had a reasonable relationship with the Players Association."

Selig added that "obviously we're hopeful that the next few hours will begin to produce a meaningful dialogue. We can replot the same ground only so many times."

Of the Thursday midnight cutoff set by the clubs, he said: "If there isn't an agreement or something remarkably close to one, that's the deadline."

(W.P., N.Y.T., A.P.)

A Rookie in a Closed Arena
Finally, Beard Can Prove Himself as a Coach

By Harvey Araton
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The black-and-white snapshot is in one of Butch Beard's old photo albums, in the back of some closet. He is a 17-year-old high school senior, a college basketball recruit, posing stiffly with the big man on campus at the University of Kentucky.

Pat Riley's hair wasn't long enough to grease, but he was — as Beard recalled before his stormy New Jersey Nets stunned Riley's slumping New York Knicks, 85-83, Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden — a pretty smooth talker.

"I thought it was because he was from New York, and the rest of them were from Kentucky and Illinois," Beard said. "Pat could really jump, like a lot of black kids. You could tell he was different, even then."

Riley, a sophomore from Schenectady, New York, was most likely chosen to usher Beard around the sprawling Lexington campus precisely because he was no farm boy, because he was different. And so was Beard, who in 1965 was offered a scholarship by Adolf Rupp to become the first black player at the country's premier basketball factory, at least for whites.

A year earlier, Wes Unseld had been Rupp's first recruit, but he stayed home, at the integrated University of Louisville, rather than blaze a frightful trail.

"It wasn't a factor with the players, at least not that I knew," Riley said. "But it was a big deal for others. I know Wes got death threats."

Rupp, under pressure from the state, set his sights on Beard, 1965's Mr. Kentucky, a 6-foot, 3-inch (1.92-meter) guard, about a half hour's drive south of Louisville.

Beard can still see Rupp, the so-called Baron, in his living room, sipping his mother Maybel's iced tea, bragging about how reviled he was in a South-eastern Conference sack of being dominated by his Wildcats.

He told us how they cursed him in Tennessee and threw bottles at him in Alabama," Beard said. "At one point, my mother asked, 'If that happens to you, then what's going to happen to my son?'"

Rupp, recalled Beard, smiled and said, none too reassuringly, or respectfully, "Miss Beard, a'm gonna take real good care of your boy."

Beard had grown up a rabid Wildcat fan, relishing Cawood Ledford's play-by-play calls from various pits around the Southeastern Conference. As the radio happens to be a terrific cloaking device for segregation, it never dawned on Beard that Rupp's program wasn't out he should aspire to.

Then, thanks to 1960s politics, the door was open, and all Beard had to do to make history was walk on through. He talked

it over with his parents. He consulted Unseld. Then he called Louisville's coach, Peck Hickman.

"We decided that Rupp was under pressure to recruit a black player, but he didn't really want one," Beard said.

How did they know? "Believe me," he said, "you know."

He went to Louisville. A year later, Beard watched from his dorm room as Riley, Louie Dampier & Co. were drubbed by predominantly black Texas Western in the national championship game. The lifelong Wildcat fan was beside himself.

"I felt like they had proved, once and for all, that black players could win big games at that level," Beard said.

Almost three decades later, Beard now looks across the great Hudson River divide, toward the establishment Garden, and, ironically, Pat Riley is his shining star. Riley is a legend as a coach, Beard a rookie. Though he's only two years younger, it has taken Beard 13 years longer to get his chance. Not quite the same chance.

While the coaching doors do open for blacks, the follow-up question is, where do they lead?

With K. C. Jones and Bill Russell in Boston the two notable exceptions, the jobs black coaches generally get are similar to the seemingly hopeless one Beard was given by his friend Willis Reed. Of the four black coaches now working in the National Basketball Association, three are in rebuilding, or collapsing, situations. The other, venerable Lenny Wilkens, will soon break Red Auerbach's record for most career victories.

Riley, right out of the radio booth, was handed a championship roster in Los Angeles. Mike Dunleavy replaced Riley and briefly rode Magic Johnson to a rich deal in Milwaukee. Orlando's Brian Hill has stumbled into Anfernee Hardaway and Shaquille O'Neal.

It would be a shame if Butch Beard, after waiting so long, never got the chance to prove he could win big games at this level. Just the same, another photo souvenir of him and Riley at the game might have been a good idea.

Ceballos Gets His 50,
Lakers Reach 2,500

Cedric Ceballos got 50, and the Los Angeles Lakers got 2,500.

Ceballos scored 50 points Tuesday night as his Lakers beat the Minnesota Timberwolves, 108-95. It was the 2,500th victory for the franchise, second most in NBA history behind the Boston Celtics' 2,635.

But the night belonged to Ceballos, a 5-year veteran ac-

quainted from Phoenix in an off-season trade. He scored 18 points in the fourth quarter, sinking a 3-pointer with 3.7 seconds left that made him the fourth player this season to score 50 in a game.

"I started thinking about it with about two minutes left," said Ceballos, whose previous best was 40 points. "Tony Smith came over to me and told me I can't come in the locker room unless I get 50. I had my clothes and my car keys in here."

Ceballos made 21 of 31 shots, including 3 of 5 from the free-throw line.

"Once he got to 42 and then 44, then we really wanted to see him get 50," Smith said. "I don't think Minnesota liked it too much. They didn't say anything, but you could see that they picked the defense up every time he touched the ball."

Hawks 115, Bucks 97: Ken Norman scored 28 points as Atlanta, playing at home, broke out of a shooting slump. It was the 936th victory for

the Hawks' coach, Lenny Wilkens, leaving him three short of breaking Red Auerbach's NBA record.

Magic 108, Trail Blazers 104: Shaquille O'Neal scored 30 points as Orlando won in Portland, taking control with a 20-4 third-quarter run that gave it an 85-69 lead. But the Trail Blazers nearly caught up with a late rally.

Nets 85, Knicks 83: Armon Gilliam, who scored 22 points, made a jumper off a broken play with 20 seconds left to put New Jersey ahead for good at New York.

Patrick Ewing's jumper had put the Knicks ahead, 82-81, with 43 seconds left. Kenny Anderson then dribbled the ball off his foot, but regained control and threw a desperation pass to Gilliam, who sank an 18-footer from the corner.

Hornets 99, Pacers 95: In Charlotte, Alonzo Mourning and Hersey Hawkins each scored 22 points as the Hornets beat Indiana for only the third time in 13 meetings.

Reggie Miller gave the Pacers their first lead of the fourth quarter with a 3-pointer that made it 91-90 with 3:03 to go. But the Hornets answered with a 6-0 run to pull ahead 96-91 with 32 seconds left.

Mavericks 110, Warriors 107: In Oakland, Jamal Mashburn scored 27 points as Dallas handed Golden State its 10th straight loss. Jason Kidd made a successful professional debut in his hometown with 19 points and 10 assists.

Hope From History? In Past, the Fewer Talking the Better

By Claire Smith
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — More than two months ago, the Dodgers' Brett Butler proved to be a sound student of the history of baseball labor negotiations when he made the following observation: When negotiating teams are reduced to the smallest common denominators, deals are made.

Because, in keeping with labor history, there does seem to be some downsizing of negotiating teams and a recalibration of the bargaining process.

In 1981, Lee MacPhail, then president of the American League, stepped in to

replace Ray Grebey, the owners' hawkish chief negotiator, whom the players had rigorously battled for most of the 50-day in-season strike. MacPhail and Marvin Miller, the head of the union, were then able to sit down and work out a settlement.

In 1983, another strike hit, and owners and even a commissioner, Peter Ueberroth, moved in and out of the negotiations. But in the end it was MacPhail who again wound up going one-on-one with a union chief, this time Don Fehr. They worked out an end to a three-day in-season strike.

In 1990, another one-on-one was needed, this time during a spring-training lock-

out. Again, it produced results. Fehr and the deputy commissioner, Steve Greenberg, locked themselves in a room to have a go at the logjam over salary arbitration eligibility. About 12 hours later they emerged, with a solution.

Now, in 1994, all of baseball waits to see if history is somehow repeating itself, as one owner, Jerry McMorris of the Colorado Rockies, prepares to take the lead role for management.

"Jerry's coming in," one union lawyer said. "We'll have to see what happens after that."

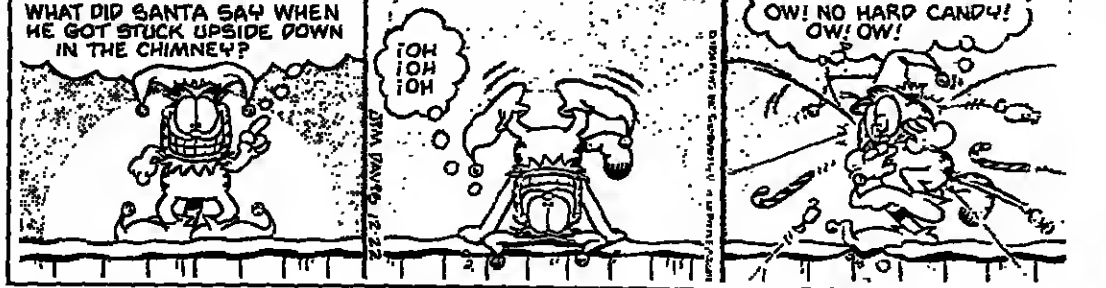
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DOONESBURY



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SPORTS

Lendl: Much Irony But Few Regrets

By Robin Finn
New York Times Service
BANKSVILLE, New York — It was, he said, "ironic" the same impeccably honed physique that had made him an ironman icon within his profession had now forced him to abandon it.

Ivan Lendl, who made such a religion of physical fitness that he overcame a shortage of God-given talent and transformed himself into the No. 1 tennis player in the world for a record 270 weeks, was retiring.

Alternately misty-eyed and jocular as he held court off the court at the Grand Slam tennis facility he owns here, the 34-year-old Lendl said he had finally succumbed to the back problem that last March was diagnosed as facet joint syndrome. The condition manifested itself in crippling back spasms during many of his matches this year.

After exhausting several courses of therapy that ranged from rest to exercise regimes to a minor surgical procedure he likened to "a root canal for your

insisted that retirement would not send him to the psychiatrist's couch or the rocking chair.

"I don't freak out that easily, other than at a bad call in a match," he said, "and I can't be bitter that this happened to me after such a long run, and such a decent run. I just wish I was still able to run."

As for regrets, he's had a few. He attributed his inability to win Wimbledon to his unwillingness to tinker with his game, and the Czechoslovak-born player, who gained his U.S. citizenship in July 1992, said he always wished he had become a citizen soon enough to be a viable contender for the Olympics.

"Not winning at Wimbledon is not going to bother me forever," he said. "I'm fully aware of my shortcomings on grass, and maybe if the Australian Open hadn't changed its surface, we would have been talking about two Slams I hadn't won instead of one. But I'm pretty much at peace with what I did accomplish."

Lendl said he bore no sour grapes toward the tennis fans who returned his cold shoulder during his heyday and became sympathetic only when he was the underdog.

"They started rooting for me when I wasn't winning," he said.

Because of his ailment, which cannot be corrected by surgery and can become degenerative if unheeded, Lendl described his retirement from the sport he ruled a decade ago as unconditional and absolute.

At any level, including the senior exhibition tour on which he had hoped to renew his battles with Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, is out of his league.

"The only fear I have is that I'll miss it too much; I would have liked to walk away from tennis when I didn't enjoy it anymore, not now."

back," Lendl said he made his decision after his back problems worsened following his aborted second round match at the U.S. Open in September.

A painful three-city stint on the seniors circuit in October confirmed his suspicion that his back could no longer support a tennis career of any kind.

"I was a disaster," he recalled.

"It's the running and pounding on hard courts that bring the spasms on, and once they start, they just keep on coming, not in one spot, but all over the middle of my back. If I wasn't a professional athlete, I'd be just another guy with a sore back, but because I am, now I've had to give up my career just when I was starting to enjoy playing without the pressure to produce."

He is still lean and mean, but no longer able to use his body as the fighting machine that earned him 94 titles, 8 of them at Grand Slam events, and an unprecedented \$20 million in prize money.

"I'm being forced to make this decision," said Lendl, who in the past few years had come to grips with his dwindling ranking, which dipped from No. 1 at the start of 1990 to 54th in 1994. He had intended to play a few more seasons merely for the joy of competing.

Instead, he said, he'll have to find his joy on the golf course, where he surprised himself recently with a hole-in-one, and at the estate in nearby Goshen, Connecticut, that he shares with his wife, Samantha, their four daughters and a corresponding number of German shepherds.

"The only fear I have is that I'll miss it too much; I would have liked to walk away from tennis when I didn't enjoy it anymore, not now," said Lendl, who

unmatched fitness, he said, was the weapon that made him a champion with titles second only to Connors and winning streaks second to none.



Alberto Tomba, after his "incredible" run, threw snow at Italian fans near the finish line.

Auguin Breaks BOC Challenge Record As Yacht Struggles Into Sydney Harbor

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
SYDNEY — Christophe Auguin of France finished the second leg of the BOC Challenge in record time Wednesday night, increasing his chances of winning the "round-the-world solo yacht race for a second straight time."

Auguin, aboard his 60-foot (18.3-meter) sloop Scota Calabron, crossed the finish line inside Sydney Heads — the entrance to Sydney harbor — after having been stymied by three-knot winds and a two-meter swell that led race organizers to put back his estimated arrival time by more than 24 hours.

He still completed the leg from Cape Town in 24 days, 23 hours, 4 minutes and 16 seconds to slash a 1 day, 7 hours, 7 minutes and 7 seconds off the record set by South African John Martin's four years ago.

The 35-year-old Auguin had already claimed the best 24-hour run for a solo-sailed

mono-hull, covering 350.9 nautical miles between Dec. 16 and 17.

"The last four days were the worst part of the journey," he said. "I was working all the time on the deck. Now I'm exhausted."

He had taken the overall lead from compatriot Isabelle Autissier during the 6,700-nautical-mile leg across the southern oceans. Autissier, who set out from South Africa on Nov. 27 with a five-day lead off her first-leg record, had her boat demasted in a storm. Late Tuesday, she was almost 2800 miles out of Sydney.

Auguin's nearest challenger was Jean-Luc Van den Heede of France, aboard the Vendée Entreprises. He was about 300 nautical miles behind and expected to finish on Thursday.

After Sydney, 27,000-mile race continues to Punta del Este, Uruguay, in late January before finishing in Charleston, South Carolina, where it began.

Tomba Wins 4th Straight, And Despite 'Big Mistake'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
LECH AM ARBERG, Austria — Even Alberto Tomba was amazed Wednesday at the way he had won his fourth consecutive slalom of the season after nearly stopping on the second run.

Counting the last two races of the 1993-94 season, Tomba now has a six-race winning streak in World Cup slaloms. No one has done that before, or even opened a season with four consecutive victories in that discipline.

Again, it was Thomas Sykora of Austria who wound up second.

Tomba, having beaten him by nearly 14 seconds in Tuesday's slalom, trailed Sykora by .02 seconds after Wednesday's first run. Then came the second run, bordering on the unbelievable, as Tomba had to brake hard to just get his skis inside a gate and regain his rhythm.

"I made a big mistake at the bottom," he said. "I lost maybe a second."

"At one moment I even considered the possibility to stop and dropping out."

He shook his head in astonishment as he finished his run, then watched Sykora come down the slope. When the Austrian's time was posted, Tomba had won. By .02 seconds. He put his hand to his mouth in disbelief. Then he went over to a group of Italian fans near the finish line and sprayed them with snow.

points, was hit by a slalom gate pole halfway down his second run Wednesday and dislocated his shoulder. Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway, third with 252, is to have a knee operation over Christmas.

The men next race in a giant slalom in Alta Badia, Italy, on Thursday. The hard, steep slope there is one that Tomba favors.

"I hope after this I can be better in the giant slalom tomorrow," he said.

Tomba's best season was in 1987-88 when he had nine victories, six in slalom and three in giant slalom on his way to gold medals in those events at the Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada.

He started this season with a fourth in the opening giant slalom at Tignes, France, coming

from 22d following the first run with the best time in the second heat. He had to drop out of Sunday's giant slalom at Val d'Isere, France, when the ribs he injured in a Sestriere, Italy, slalom last week became too painful.

Swiss team officials said that von Grinigen was being sent home and would be unlikely to ski again until the grand slalom at Adelboden, Switzerland, on Jan. 24.

"He will go for a medical examination in Fribourg tomorrow. Then we will know," said the team's doctor, Markus Koster.

Doctors put von Grinigen's shoulder back in position after he hit the pole and Koster said further tests would determine if any ligaments had been torn.

(AP, Reuters)

Italy's Day in Skiing: Panzanini Also Wins

The Associated Press
ALTA BADIA, Italy — Sabina Panzanini won her first World Cup race Wednesday, a giant slalom, to make it Italy's day in Alpine skiing.

Panzanini, a 22-year-old from nearby Merano, beat Anita Wachter of Austria by 0.47 seconds, then broke into tears and whispered, "It's a dream, I can't believe it."

Two-time Olympic champion Deborah Compagnoni, who had missed the nine previous races because of a kidney infection, took third place, for the first time in World Cup history, two Italian women placed first and third in a giant slalom.

Panzanini was timed in 2 minutes, 21.03 seconds down the Gran Risa track, Compagnoni in 2:22.14.

Wachter was clocked in 2:21.50 but was unhappy with a second-run mistake that probably cost her her first victory this season.

The overall champion in 1993 was the fastest in the first run, with a one-hundredth of a second edge over Panzanini.

But she then lost her balance on the steep upper section and completed the second run .48 seconds behind Panzanini, who had the best heat time of 1:11.27.

Panzanini, who had finished second in a giant slalom in Park

City, Utah, last month, skied aggressively on both runs, marked by 51 gates, on a tough course usually used for men's races.

She said that a summer diet, which allowed her to lose several kilograms and become more agile, had helped.

"It's a great victory on a technical track," said the bespectacled skier. "It's my first win, and it came in Italy. I'm overjoyed."

The women's World Cup circuit continues with a slalom at Meribel, France, on Dec. 30.

Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg, a former world giant slalom champion, was among those who did not qualify for the second run.

"It was a tough race," Compagnoni said. "I'm happy with my performance and with Sabina's victory. Losing to Sabina is sweet to me. It's a great day for the Italian team."

Heidi Zeller-Bähler of Switzerland was a distant sixth in Wednesday's race but still held first place in the World Cup overall standings.

Zeller-Bähler, who won two giant slalom races in the United States, has 485 points from 10 races.

Defending World Cup champion Vreni Schneider finished ninth Wednesday following consecutive slalom victories and remained in second place overall, with 586 points.

SCOREBOARD

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Orlando	18	5	.780
New York	17	6	.739
New Jersey	16	7	.692
Boston	15	8	.652
Philadelphia	14	9	.609
Atlanta	13	10	.565
Washington	12	11	.520
CENTRAL DIVISION			
Indiana	14	7	.667
Cleveland	13	8	.619
Charlotte	12	9	.571
Chicago	11	10	.524
Detroit	10	11	.476
Milwaukee	9	12	.429
WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Utah	17	6	.739
Portland	16	7	.692
Dallas	15	8	.652
San Antonio	14	9	.609
Phoenix	13	10	.565
Los Angeles	12	11	.520
Golden State	11	12	.476
San Diego	10	13	.429
Memphis	9	14	.381
Seattle	8	15	.333
Los Angeles	7	16	.286

TUESDAY'S RESULTS			
Atlanta	97	Charlotte	85
Los Angeles	103	Portland	94
Phoenix	101	San Antonio	95
San Diego	92	Seattle	88
Utah	105	Washington	90
Chicago	98	Cleveland	89
Detroit	96	Indiana	93
Golden State	102	Milwaukee	91
Los Angeles	104	Memphis	96
Minnesota	99	New York	94
Orlando	100	Philadelphia	92
San Antonio	98	Seattle	90
San Diego	95	Utah	93
Washington	91	Charlotte	87
Atlanta	94	Cleveland	86
Charlotte	84	Detroit	89
Cleveland	86	Indiana	92
Detroit	89	Milwaukee	91
Indiana	92	Minnesota	96
Milwaukee	91	New York	94
Minnesota	96	Orlando	100
New York	94	Philadelphia	92
Orlando	100	San Antonio	95
Philadelphia	92	San Diego	92
San Antonio	95	Seattle	88
San Diego	92	Utah	93
Seattle	88	Washington	90
Utah	93	Charlotte	87
Washington	90	Cleveland	86
Charlotte	87	Detroit	89
Cleveland	86	Indiana	92
Detroit	89	Milwaukee	91
Indiana	92	Minnesota	96
Milwaukee	91	New York	94
Minnesota	96	Orlando	100
New York	94	Philadelphia	92
Orlando	100	San Antonio	95
Philadelphia	92	San Diego	92
San Antonio	95	Seattle	88
San Diego	92	Utah	93
Seattle	88	Washington	90
Utah	93	Charlotte	87
Washington	90	Cleveland	86
Charlotte	87	Detroit	89
Cleveland	86	Indiana	92
Detroit	89	Milwaukee	91
Indiana	92	Minnesota	96
Milwaukee	91	New York	94
Minnesota	96	Orlando	100
New York	94	Philadelphia	92
Orlando	100	San Antonio	95
Philadelphia	92	San Diego	92
San Antonio	95	Seattle	88
San Diego	92	Utah	93
Seattle	88	Washington	90
Utah	93	Charlotte	87
Washington	90	Cleveland	86
Charlotte	87	Detroit	89
Cleveland	86	Indiana	92
Detroit	89	Milwaukee	91
Indiana	92	Minnesota	96
Milwaukee	91	New York	94
Minnesota	96	Orlando	100
New York	94	Philadelphia	92
Orlando	100	San Antonio	95
Philadelphia	92	San Diego	92
San Antonio	95	Seattle	88
San Diego	92	Utah	93
Seattle	88	Washington	90
Utah	93	Charlotte	87
Washington	90	Cleveland	86
Charlotte	87	Detroit	89
Cleveland	86	Indiana	92
Detroit	89	Milwaukee	91
Indiana	92	Minnesota	96
Milwaukee	91	New York	94
Minnesota	96	Orlando	100
New York	94	Philadelphia	92
Orlando	100	San Antonio	95
Philadelphia	92	San Diego	92
San Antonio	95	Seattle	88
San Diego	92	Utah	93
Seattle	88	Washington	90
Utah	93	Charlotte	87
Washington	90	Cleveland	86
Charlotte	87	Detroit	89
Cleveland	86	Indiana	92
Detroit	89	Milwaukee	91
Indiana	92	Minnesota	96
Milwaukee	91	New York	94
Minnesota	96	Orlando	100
New York	94	Philadelphia	92
Orlando	100	San Antonio	95
Philadelphia	92	San Diego	92
San Antonio	95	Seattle	88
San Diego	92	Utah	93
Seattle	88	Washington	90
Utah	93	Charlotte	87
Washington	90	Cleveland	86
Charlotte	87	Detroit	89
Cleveland	86	Indiana	92
Detroit	89	Milwaukee	91
Indiana	92	Minnesota	96
Milwaukee	91	New York	94
Minnesota	96	Orlando	100
New York	94	Philadelphia	92
Orlando	100	San Antonio	95
Philadelphia	92	San Diego	92
San Antonio	95	Seattle	88
San Diego	92	Utah	93
Seattle	88	Washington	90
Utah	93	Charlotte	87
Washington	90	Cleveland	86
Charlotte	87	Detroit	89
Cleveland	86	Indiana	92
Detroit	89	Milwaukee	91
Indiana	92	Minnesota	96
Milwaukee	91	New York	94
Minnesota	96	Orlando	100
New York	94	Philadelphia	92
Orlando	100	San Antonio	95
Philadelphia	92	San Diego	92
San Antonio	95	Seattle	88
San Diego	92	Utah	93
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Utah	93	Charlotte	87
Washington	90	Cleveland	86
Charlotte	87	Detroit	89
Cleveland	86	Indiana	92
Detroit	89	Milwaukee	91
Indiana	92	Minnesota	96
Milwaukee	91	New York	94
Minnesota	96	Orlando	100
New York	94	Philadelphia	92
Orlando	100	San Antonio	95
Philadelphia	92	San Diego	92
San Antonio	95	Seattle	88
San Diego	92	Utah	93
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Orlando	100	San Antonio	95
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Orlando	100	San Antonio	95
Philadelphia	92	San Diego	92
San Antonio	95	Seattle	88

